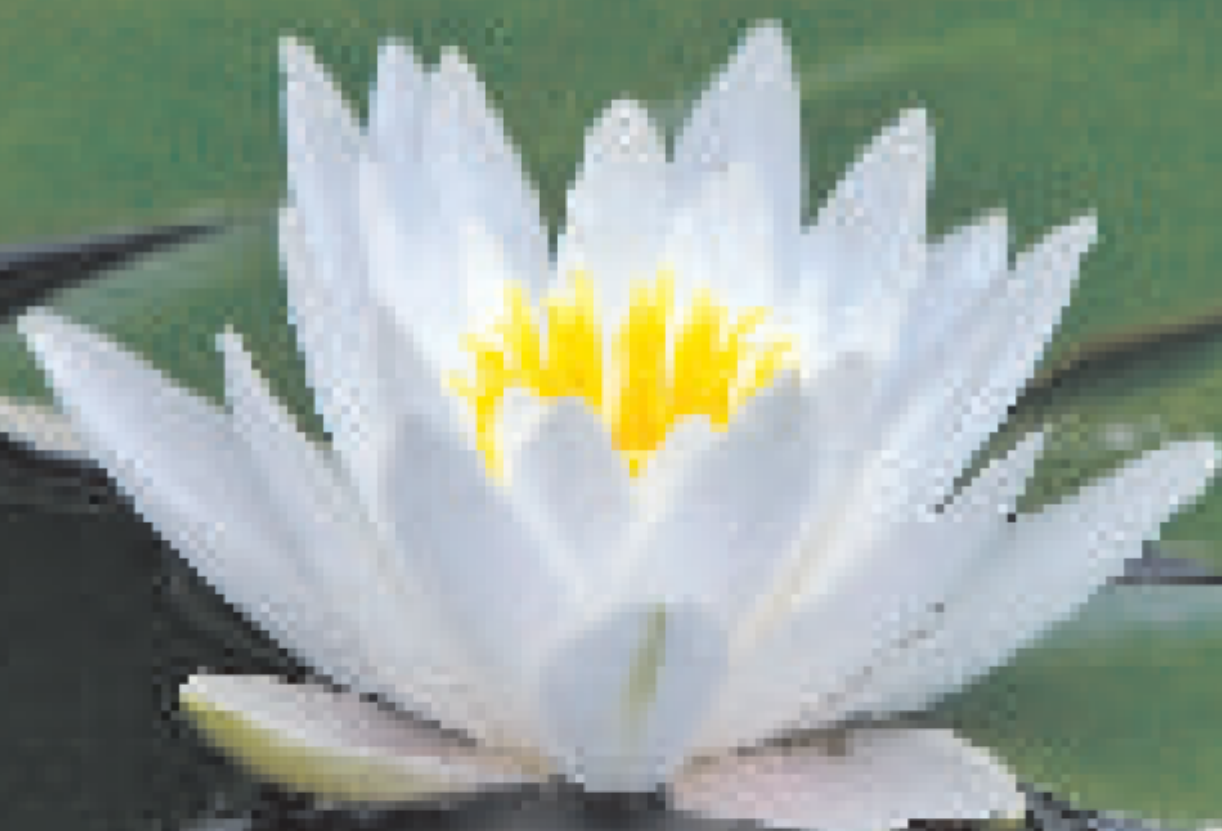


# हमारी अस्मिता Our Origin



Surinder Sood



सूद सभा, चण्डीगढ़ (रजि.)

## SOOD BHAWAN, CHANDIGARH



## SOOD BHAWAN, PANCHKULA





### **Sh. Surinder Sood**

Born on May 3, 1943 at Subathu (Distt : Solan - HP)

Father : Sh. Sukh Ram Dass Sood.

Retired as Administrative Officer from L.I.C. of India, Chandigarh.

Association of Sh. Surinder Sood with the Sood Sabha is over 25 years long. Since 1990 he has been a part of the Sabha as General Secretary and continues to expend his energies in the service of the community. He has been instrumental in channelizing the focus of the Sabha towards activities benefitting the society as a whole, such as, Diagnostic Laboratory, Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Centre, and Meditation Centre & Library. These projects have made the Sabha play a more active role in the service of the people both within and outside the Sood community.

When he joined the Sood Sabha, Sood Bhawans at Chandigarh and Panchkula were under construction. The zeal and devotion of the senior members; their collective and concerted efforts to raise funds and their commitment to work for the Sabha to achieve the goal; all these factors strengthened his bonds with the Sabha and he too followed in their foot steps.....



## **सूद सभा, चण्डीगढ़ (रजि.)**

# हमारी अस्मिता Our Origin

*An overview of the origin & history of our community  
and  
the progressive role of Sood Sabha, Chandigarh*

**SURINDER SOOD**



सेवा परमोधर्मः

**SOOD SABHA, CHANDIGARH (REGD.)**



## **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SOOD MILAN MELA**

*Dedicated to  
Our  
Socially Committed Biradari  
&  
Our Ancestry  
which has made us proud*

November 18, 2012

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Published by :  
**SOOD SABHA CHANDIGARH (Regd.)**

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Price : Rs. 50/-



**Former Judge Pb. & Haryana High Court  
Former Lokayukta, Haryana**

## **MESSAGE**

*I have had the privilege of going through the manuscript of this book and find it extremely informative. Shri Surinder Sood must be complimented for the effort put in by him in carrying out the research before putting his findings in this book. It is a quest of a scholar to find his as well as his community's roots. It is definitely not an attempt to compartmentalize a community and try to prove it to be superior to the other communities. This fact stands out from the reports of various Sood Sabhas which show that the members of Sood community have got together to serve the society as a whole without any consideration of caste or religion.*

*I have had the privilege of observing the activities of Sood Sabha at Chandigarh and have found the office bearers to be a highly motivated dedicated lot whose sole objective is SERVICE. I wish them godspeed.*

*May God bless them.*

**Justice (Retd.) N.K. Sud**



**Senior Advocate**  
High Court of Himachal Pradesh

## MESSAGE

*It gives me immense pleasure to know that Sood Sabha, Chandigarh in its usual style has taken the lead in publishing the book tracing the origin, history of Sood Community and its future prospects in view of the advancement of science & technology in the changing world scenario.*

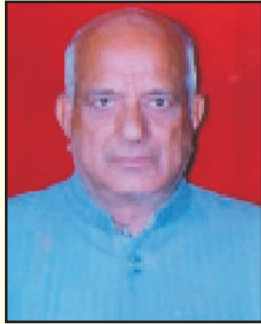
*In the past also Sood Sabha, Chandigarh has taken up several welfare and progressive activities for the benefit of not only the Sood Community but also the society at large which has made us proud of our ancestors and Community as a whole. The present book being published by Sood Sabha, Chandigarh is another landmark step in this direction.*

*With the advancement of science & technology and progressive approach of the young boys and girls of our Community who had gone for education or employment or settled all over the world, there have not only been inter-caste, inter-religion and inter-nationality marriages amongst them and that too in different countries. Hence, there was all the more need to publish this book to acquaint us about our heritage.*

*I have had the advantage of reading article "OUR ORIGIN" written by Sh. Surinder Sood. He has indeed made intensive research and study on the subject and in a simple and stylish language brought out the great philanthropist traditions inherited by us from our ancestors. He deserves all the praise and congratulations for the same.*

*With best wishes.*

**KAPIL DEV SOOD**



**President**  
Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha

## **MESSAGE**

*I am immensely pleased to know that on the occasion of 50th 'Golden Jubilee' Sood Milan Mela, Sood Sabha, Chandigarh is publishing a book outlining the progress made by the Sabha since it was formed more than five decades back. There is no doubt that the Sabha has made tremendous progress and is constantly moving forward in its mission to serve the society in true spirit of the traditions set by our forefathers. I heartily congratulate President Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood and his team.*

*There have been many books about the origin and history of Soods. With the passage of time these books were not easily available. I am glad to know that Sh. Surinder Sood has made a lot of efforts to consolidate the work of several authors; putting it before the biradari in the present context. It was the need of the hour to enlighten the youngsters about the glorious heritage of our community.*

*For doing this service to the community, I appreciate the efforts of Sh. Surinder Sood and congratulate him.*

**BIPAN CHAND SOOD**



**President**

Sood Sabha (Regd.)  
Chandigarh

**MESSAGE**

*When I joined the Sood Sabha Chandigarh in the year 1976, a group of young members lead by Late Sh. Harish Sood was moving ahead with determination to get a plot of land from the Administration for construction of a Bhawan for Sood Sabha at Chandigarh. I too shared their dreams; we worked together and ultimately achieved our goal, with an additional bonus, when we got not one but two plots - one at Chandigarh and the other at Panchkula.*

*The Sabha is organizing 50th 'Sood Milan Mela' on 18th Nov., 2012 at Sood Bhawan, Panchkula - a Golden Jubilee, which is an achievement in itself.*

*It was decided that on this occasion we should compile and release history of the Sood Sabha. This work was assigned to Sh. Surinder Sood, our General Secretary whose contribution to establish social projects at both the Bhawans have earned all round appreciation for our Sabha. I am glad that he has put in a lot of effort, studied vast material and has brought out this book which will be of immense benefit for the younger generation.*

*On behalf of the entire Managing Committee of our Sabha and on my own behalf, I heartily congratulate Sh. Surinder Sood for this successful venture which will prove to be another mile-stone for our Sabha.*

**KULWANT RAI SOOD**

## FOREWORD

*It is always interesting to look back at the past in retrospect and plan for a better future. When I took up the assignment to write about the events which involved the participation of several members of the Sabha who played an important role in its growth, and also my own small contribution, I felt that the real test lay ahead of me. In a society full of different people and different ideas, one has to tread the path with extreme caution.*

*History, like flowing waters of a river, also changes its course and gets a new interpretation every time an attempt is made to write it. What remains permanent are the lessons which history teaches us. It was beyond my wisdom to comment upon the great work done by the authors who did a yeoman's job to compile history of our community and trace its origin. Although they propounded different theories about the origin, yet we must appreciate their stupendous efforts for infusing in us a sense of pride about our ancestry.*

*I have made a sincere attempt to compile the events of our Sabha since its inception so that those, who will shoulder the responsibility in future should know the vicissitudes through which the Sabha has passed. With almost negligible funds in hand, by dint of sheer determination and earnest efforts, the Sabha has reached the stage it occupies today.*

*During the last decade, our society has changed very fast. The prevailing scenario has opened up new horizons. We have to look beyond the narrow considerations of caste and creed and work for the welfare of the society as a whole; at the same time, let us also try to strengthen the bonds of oneness in our small but vibrant community.*

*For any short-coming or unintentional mistake in recording any event or contribution of any member of our community, I offer my apologies.*

**SURINDER SOOD**

General Secretary  
Sood Sabha, Chandigarh

E-mail : [surinderspsood@gmail.com](mailto:surinderspsood@gmail.com)  
Mobile : 09988019198

# SOOD SABHA CHANDIGARH (REGD.)

## Former Presidents & Advisors



**Sh. Hari Om Sood**



**Sh. Bipan Chand Sood**



**Sh. Brij Sood**



**Sh. Bal Krishan Sood**

## Office Bearers - 2011-2013



**Sh. V.K. Sood**

Chairman

Sood Sewa Bhawan Trust



**Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood**

President



**Sh. Ashwani Doegar**

Sr. Vice President



**Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood**

Vice President



**Sh. Kapil Goel**

Vice President



**Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud**

Vice President



**Sh. Surinder Sood**

General Secretary



**Sh. Umesh Sood**

Finance Secretary



**Sh. Shiv Kumar Sood**

Legal Advisor



**Sh. A.K. Sood, C.A.**

Financial Advisor



**Sh. S.K. Sood**

Advocate



**Sh. Rajinder Sood**

Secretary



# Office Bearers & Executive Committee Members (2011-2013)



**Sh. P.C. Sood**  
Secretary



**Sh. R.K. Sood**  
Secretary



**Sh. Sudarshan Sood**  
Secretary



**Sh. R.K. Maria**  
Publicity Secretary



**Mrs. Shama Sood**  
Organizing Secretary



**Mrs. Kamini Goel**  
Editor Sood Sandesh



**Sh. S.M. Sood**



**Maj. M.L. Bhagra (Retd.)**



**Sh. Vinod Sood**



**Sh. Balraj Sood**



**Sh. Ashwani Sood**



**Sh. Balkrishan Sood**



**Sh. Juglesh Sood**



**Sh. J.R. Sood**



**Sh. Pawan Sood**



**Sh. Ashwani Sood**



**Sh. Bhupinder Sood**



**Sh. Surinder Sood**



# SHRADHANJALI

FOUNDER MEMBERS OF SOOD SABHA WHO HAVE  
LEFT INDELIBLE MARKS WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTION



**Sh. A.C. Hoshiarpuri**  
President



**Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar**  
President & Patron



**Sh. Bhag Mal Sood**  
President



**Sh. Dee Raj Kashyap**  
Chief Patron



**Sh. Harish Sood**  
General Secretary



**Sh. Dharam Inder Sood**  
President



**Sh. Kishore Chand Mehdoodla**  
President



**Sh. Vikram Sood**  
Secretary



**Lt. Col. S.L. Sood (Retd.)**  
General Secretary



**Sh. Mansha Ram Sood**  
Vice President



**Sh. Kharak Singh Sood**  
Vice President

**1987**



Havan & Bhoomi Pujan on Jan. 11, 1987 – S/Sh. Madan Mohan Sood, D.R. Kashyap, V.K. Sood, Harish Sood, Kulwant Rai Sood, Dharam Inder Sood. Also present Sh. K.C. Mehdoodia, Brij Sood & Surinder Sood.

**2012**

## **Sood Yuva Manch**



S/Sh. Rajinder Sood Secretary, Khushwinder Sood, Sunil Sood, Sachin Sood, Lokesh Sood, Atul Sood, Shashi Bhushan Sud, Vice President & Co-ordinator Yuva Manch, Amit Sood, Anil Sood, Vikas Kuthiala, Pardeep Sood & Sanjay Sood





Inauguration of Charitable Diagnostic Laboratory at Sood Bhawan, Chandigarh by Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, President on March 21, 2003.



Meditation Center & Library inaugurated by Smt. Sushila Doegar wife of Late Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar on July 19, 2009. Justice N.K. Sood, Sh. V.K. Sood, Sh. Umesh Sood & other members also in the picture



Homoeopathic Dispensary (June, 2000) - Sh. Bipan Chand Sood honours Dr. Sukhbir Chopra, M.D. (Homoeopathy). Also present Dr. J.K. Kalra, Sh. Surinder Sood, Sh. R.K. Sood, Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud .





**'Sood Ratan'**- Awarded to legendary Sh. Amar Chand Sood, an eminent Advocate, High Court, Shimla on Feb.12, 1995. Also present Sh. Hardyal Doegar, Yogacharya Roshan Lal Sood, Sh. K.C. Mehdoodia and Sh. Hari Om Sood.

### Benevolent Donors



Sh. Pran Nath Sood



Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry



Sh. Manohar Lal Mohindra



Sh. Hanwant Dass Sood



Inauguration of Physio-Therapy Centre at Sood Bhawan Panchkula on 15-4-2007 by Smt. Santosh Langha wife of Sh. M.M. Langha - Also in the picture Sh. B.C. Sood, Sh. K.R. Sood, Sh. Ashwani Doegar & his wife Mrs. Manju Doegar





Sh. Mela Ram Sood, Sh. Bishamber Lal Sood and Dr. Mukand Lal Sood honoured on the occasion of 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sood Mela held at Chandigarh on Feb. 16, 1992.



**Sitting** – Sh. B.K. Sood, Sh. Sunil Sood, Sh. Avinash Sood, Lala Amar Chand Sood (Chief Guest) Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, Sh. Vijay Kuthiala, Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood & Sh. Krishan Kant Sood, **Standing** – Sh. Naresh Sood, Sh. Vijay Sood, Sh. S.R. Sood & Sh. Som Dutt Sood, Sh. Vishwa Nath Sood, Sh. Arvind Sood & Sh. Surinder Sood.



Sh. Hari Om Sood, the then President Sood Sabha presents 'Sood Ratan' Award to Sh. Brahm Datt Sood. **L to R** : S/Sh. B.K.Sood, K.C. Mehdoodia, V.K. Sood, D.R. Kashyap, Bipan Chand Sood, Brij Sood, Kulwant Rai Sood & Surinder Sood.





Sh. Hanwant Dass Sood, Chief Guest at Sood Mela on 26-2-1989 with his family. Smt. Krishana Sood w/o Sh. Bipan Chand Sood & Smt. Ashima Sud also in the picture.



Foundation stone of Administrative Block of Sood Bhawan, Chandigarh laid by Smt. Sudershan Mayor wife of Late Sh. Narinder Mayor of Jalandhar on Feb. 7, 1988.



Chief Guest Sh. Kuldip Sood, eminent Sound Recordist of Film Industry (in the middle) at Sood Milan Mela held on Nov.16, 2008 Present : Sh. Mohinder Sood, Sh. V.K. Sood, Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, Sh. B.C. Sood, Dr. R.K. Sood, Sh. S.M. Sood & Sh. Surinder Sood.

# PHILANTHROPISTS - PRIDE OF THE BIRADARI



**Smt. Gyatri Devi & Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood. Shimla**



**Sh. Jishan Lal Kuthiala presents bouquet to Sood Prince at Sood Mela held at Chandigarh. Sh. Brij Sood also present.**



**Smt. Dwarka Devi & Sh. Madan Lal Sood, New Delhi**



**Sh. Des Raj Bowry, Chief Patron,  
Sood Association U.K.**



# KANGRA YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION LAHORE

## 26th ANNIVERSARY, 1924-25



Abimash Chandra Sud, Jindar Lal Sud, Ram Das Sud, Hardyal Pal, Basakshi Ram, K. Rajjit Singh, Brahmon Ram, Thunila Ram, K. Rihim Salo, Vishnu Datta Sharma, Faqir Chand, Anar Chand, K. Harman Singh, Govind Ram Gupta B.A., Sarwan Singh, K. Jodha Ram, K. Bhag Singh, K. Rajindar Singh, K. Anar Singh, K. Krishan Singh, Bhuri Singh, Nitaya Nand, Kirpa Ram, Mangat Ram Khatri B.A., Lala Ram Shastri B.A., Dulo Ram, Alina Ram, Anin Chand Mahajan, K. Ram Singh, B.A., K. Hamir Chand, Saran Singh, Dina Nath, Ishwar Datta, Ajudhia Prasad, Chiranjil Lal Sud, Mukand Lal Sud, Hem Raj Kavastha, Vidya Prakash, Chuni Lal Sharma, Dharm Chand Kaistha, R.D. Kaistha, Dev Indar Nath Mahajan, Mangat Ram, K. Rasil Singh, Tula Ram Sharma, Harish Chandra Gupta, Sardari Lal, Beni Prasad Mahajan (Joint Secretary), Prakash Chand Mahajan, Kishore Chand Mahajan (B.A.), Desh Raj Mahajan (Auditor B.A.), K. Kushal Singh (B.A.), R. Misra (Treasurer), Anar Chand Sud, Hem Raj Sud (B.A. Hon's), Moti Ram Sharma, Raghu Nandan Shastri, L. Hukam Chand Mahajan, (M.Sc), Bakshi Sher Singh (B.A., LL.B. Sub. Judge), L. Prabh Dayal Suri, K. Pancham Chander (B.A.), Bakshi Tek Chand (M.A., LL.B. Advocate), Hon'ble Justice Jai Lal (High Court Lahore President), R. B. Bakshi Sobhan Lal (B.A., LL.B. Vakil), Pt. Prithvi Ram Sharma (Secretary), Dr. Paras Ram Sud (M.B.B.S.), L. Mehar Chand Mahajan (B.A., LL.B. Vakil), Pt. Gnan Chond Sharma, Dala Ram, Sarv Mitra Sharma, Rotan Chandra Sud (B.A.), Mehar Chand Anand, Mehar Chand Mahajan, Sucha Ram, Bakshi Ram Sharma, K. Dharm Singh, Sarla, Krishna Shanta.



# SOOD ASSOCIATION LAHORE 9th ANNIVERSARY 1927



Amar Chand, Mukand Lal, Kanshi Ram B.A., Hem Raj B.A., Hon<sup>ble</sup> Harish Chandra, Abinash Chandra, Jajish Ram  
Treasurer

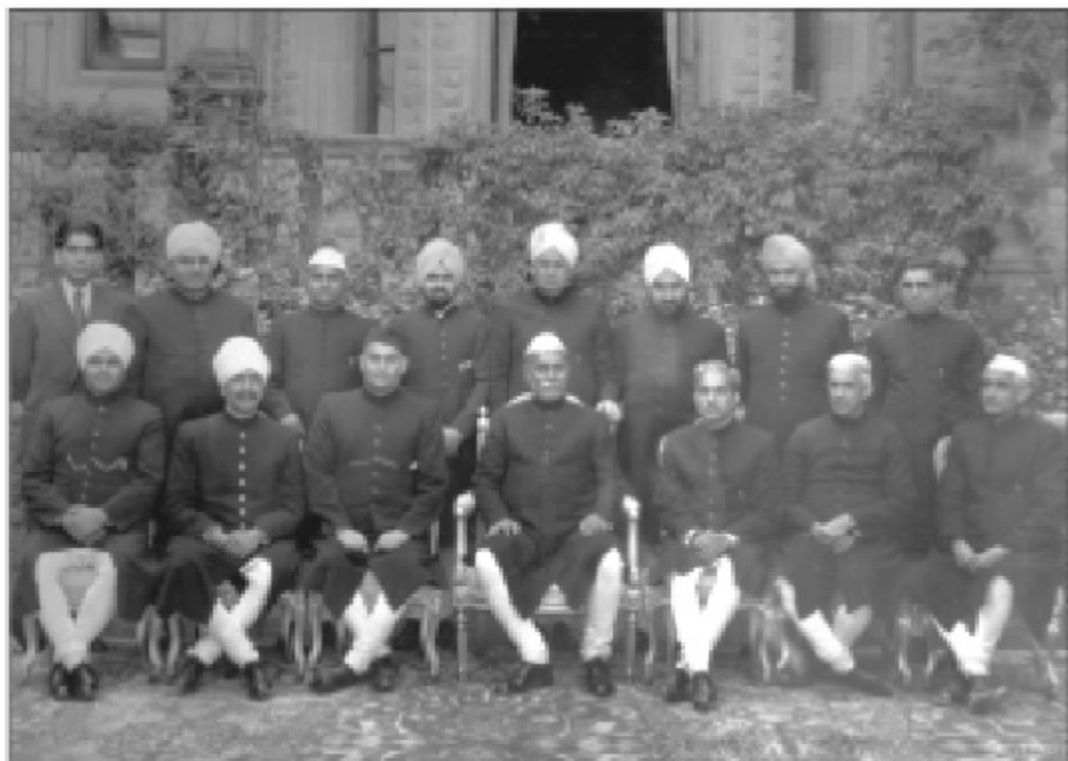
Jai Lal, Mansha Ram, Tirlok Chand, Karam Chand, Durga Dass, Mangat Ram, Harey Lal, Sohan Lal, Prem Chandra  
Secretary

Bhagwan Dass, Amar Chand Jagat Ram

# HISTORICAL EVENTS



**Mahatma Gandhi, Lala Mela Ram Sood and Sh. Mahadev Desai (personal assistant of Gandhiji) after signing Historic Gandhi-Irwin Pact at Shimla in 1931.**



**Lala Mela Ram Sood and Sh. Behari Lal Sood of Paragpur (extreme left) & some other dignitaries with Dr. Rajinder Prasad, the then President of India**

## *Grateful to :*

- *Sh. Kapil Dev Sood, Senior Advocate, Shimla for making available 'Sood Vanshavali' written in 1902-03 and some rare photographs for this book.*
- *Sh. Brij Sood, former President and Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood, Vice President for their valuable advice.*
- *Mrs. Santosh Kalra, former Principal, GCG, Sector 42, Chandigarh for translating the chapter 'Our Origin' into Hindi.*
- *Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud, Vice President for his encouragement and help in setting the format of the book.*
- *Sh. Rajinder Sood, Secretary, whose knowledge of Urdu language helped me understand the contents of Sh. Salamat Rai Sood's book.*

AND

- *The President and the Managing Committee of Sood Sabha for entrusting this assignment to me which provided me an opportunity to acquaint myself with the rich heritage of our community and the intricate caste system prevailing in our society.*

**SOOD SABHA CHANDIGARH (REGD.)****ROLL OF HONOUR**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>GENERAL SECRETARY</b>
<b>Sh. A.C. Hoshiarpuri</b> 1959-1962	<b>Sh. Madan Mohan Sood</b> 1959-1963
<b>Sh. Brahm Sarup Sood</b> 1963-1976	<b>Sh. Madan Mohan Sood</b> 1963-1975
<b>Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar</b> 1977-1983	<b>Sh. Dharam Inder Sood</b> 1976-1982
<b>Sh. Bhag Mal Sood</b> 1984-1985	<b>Sh. Harish Sood</b> 1983-1985
<b>Sh. Dharm Inder Sood</b> Aug 1986 - June 1987	<b>Sh. Ashwani Doegar</b> 1986
<b>Sh. Hari Om Sood</b> July 1987 - June 1994	<b>Sh. Harish Sood</b> Aug 1986 - July 1989
<b>Sh. Bipan Chand Sood</b> June 1994 - July 1995	<b>Sh. Bal Krishan Sood</b> Aug 1989 - April 1990
<b>Sh. K.C. Mehdoodia</b> July 1996 - Sept. 1999	<b>Sh. Surinder Sood</b> May 1990 - June 1994
<b>Sh. Brij Krishan Sood</b> Sept. 1999 - Aug 2001	<b>Lt. Col. S.L. Sood (Retd.)</b> June 1994 - Aug 2001
<b>Sh. Bal Krishan Sood</b> Aug 2001 - May 2003	<b>Sh. Ashwani Doegar</b> Aug 2001 - May 2003
<b>Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood</b> May 2003 -	<b>Sh. Surinder Sood</b> May 2003 -

---

**SOOD SABHA, CHANDIGARH (REGD.)  
OFFICE BEARERS & MANAGING COMMITTEE  
(2011- 2013)**

<b>Former Presidents :</b>	Sh. Hari Om Sood Sh. Bipan Chand SoodSh. Brij Krishan Sood Sh. B.K Sood
<b>President</b>	<b>Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood</b>
<b>Sr Vice President</b>	Sh. Ashwani Doegar
<b>Vice Presidents :</b>	Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud Sh. Kapil Goel
<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Sh. Surinder Sood</b>
<b>Finance Secretary</b>	Sh. Umesh Sood
<b>Legal Advisor</b>	Sh. Shiv Kumar Sood
<b>Fiancial Advisor</b>	Sh. A.K. Sood ( C.A)
<b>Secretaries :</b>	Sh. Rajinder Sood Sh. Sudarshan Sood Sh. P.C. Sood Sh. R.K. Sood
<b>Publicity Secretary</b>	Sh. R.K. Maria
<b>Organizing Secretary</b>	Mrs. Shama Sood
<b>Editor, Sood Sandesh</b>	Mrs. Kamini Goel

---

**MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE :**

Sh. S.K. Sood (Advocate)

Maj. M.L. Bhagra(Retd.)

Sh. S.M. Sood

Sh Ashwani Sood (L.I.C.)

Sh. Bal Krishan Sood

Er. Balraj Sood

Sh. Jaswant Rai Sood

Sh. Juglesh Sood

Sh. Bhupinder Sood

Sh.Ashwani Sood (Mehdoodia)

Sh Vinod Kumar Sood

(Pro-color)

Sh. Ashok Sood

Sh Vinod Kumar Sood

Sh. Pawan Sood, Mohali

Sh. Surinder Sood, Mohali





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## **SOOD SEWA BHAWAN TRUST**

<i>Chairman</i>	Sh. V.K Sood
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Sh. Bipan Chand Sood
<i>General Secretary</i>	Sh. Surinder Sood
<i>Finance Secretary</i>	Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood
<i>Asstt. Finance Secretary</i>	Sh. Brij Krishan Sood
<i>Members :</i>	Sh. Hari Om Sood
	Sh. Bal Krishan Sood
	Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood
	Sh. S.K. Sood, Advocate



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## OUR ORIGIN

*"Maharishi Bhrigu tells Bharadwaj that caste divisions relate to differences in physical attributes of different human beings, reflected in skin colour. Rishi Bhardwaj responds not only by pointing to the considerable variations in skin colour within every caste, but also by the more profound question: 'We all seem to be affected by desire, anger, fear, sorrow, worry and hunger; how do we have caste differences then? Since members of all the four 'varnas' are children of God, they all belong to the same caste. All human beings have the same father - The Supreme God, and children of the same father cannot have different castes.'"*

— 'Bhavishya Puran'

Maharishi Bhardwaj illustrated the common characteristics of all human beings, thereby telling us in simple words that during the period when 'Vedic Dharma' was at its peak, the Society was liberal and free from rigid caste structure. Later on, how our society degenerated, is a part of known history and needs no elaboration. Even now the polluted political system is thriving by using the 'caste' card. Whereas the caste system contributed in creating a congenial social order in the society, it also caused disunity and division. From time to time whenever caste became a divisive force, social reformers actively intervened to remove the evils of caste system. This is, thus, the most significant feature of the rich Hindu culture.

There are many reasons which inspire us to search for our origin, heritage or ancestry; knowledge of which helps not only to establish our identity but in a way to derive inspiration from the contribution and noble acts of our fore-fathers. It also makes us proud that besides being an 'individual entity' we are a part of a progressive and enlightened Sood community where spiritual inheritance, human values, rich traditions, mutual respect and sense of oneness prevails.



---

We should always cherish what our ancestors have done and passed on to us. It becomes our responsibility too, to honour that legacy, contribute to make the Society a better place to live in and to leave for the posterity good examples so that they may also feel proud of us. Sood Sabha Chandigarh has a long history spread over five decades. My association with the Sabha is also for more than two decades now. Ever since its formation, the Sabha has made tremendous progress and has created for itself a place of pride not only in the entire Sood Biradari but in this region as well. The Managing Committee decided to compile history of Sood Sabha for releasing the same on the occasion of '50th Sood Milan Mela' which is being held on 18th November, 2012, and I was asked to undertake this assignment. Obviously it is an occasion when we should not only highlight the functioning of Sood Sabha Chandigarh but also the role Soods have played in the Society during the period for which record is available.

What is the origin of Soods, their legacy and what role Soods have played over the years? Let us try to find answer to these questions by travelling to the past era through the dusty, narrow and hazy lanes of history.

God has provided man with an inherent urge to strive for knowledge so that the mysteries of the Universe created by HIM are solved for the benefit of not only the present generation but for the posterity as well. This has been a continuous process and has resulted into social evolution. Man has reached the moon and now the stage is set to unfold the mysteries of the mars. Discovery of 'God Particle' will be the ultimate step in that direction. Perhaps no other generation in the past has enjoyed the benefits of so many amazing and astounding scientific discoveries and inventions as we have in our life time. It may have changed our overall outlook but basically we continue to be an integral part of the social system that has been created and preserved over the centuries by our ancestors;

notwithstanding the onslaught by invaders on our values and blatant attempts to distort our culture, traditions and history. Therefore, we have reasons to feel proud of our inheritance. I neither possess a historian's perspective nor have vision of an anthropologist. My understanding of the subject, as a lay man, which I later found intricate and complex but interesting, remains confined to find answer to some basic questions :

- ★ the Origin of the caste to which we belong;
- ★ its growth; and
- ★ our place in the Society.

#### WHAT IS THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF SOODS?

Relentless efforts have been made in the past to trace the history of our community. Luckily, following books are available with Sood Sabha Chandigarh which deal with this subject with great objectivity.

- (1) **Sood Vanshawali** - by Pt. Sant Ram Sharma, Raj Guru of Jubbal State (H.P.). Written in Sanskrit with Hindi translation. (published in 1903) - Photocopy of the book made available by Sh. Kapil Dev Sood, Sr. Advocate, Shimla.
- (2) **"Mukammal-e-Twareekh-Soodan"** - by Late Sh. Salamat Rai Dosanjh of Turkheri Kalan (Distt: Patiala) published in 1935 (Urdu)
- (3) **"Origin and History of Soods"** - by Late Sh. Madan Mohan Sood and published by Sood Sabha Chandigarh in 1976.
- (4) **"Sood Vansh Ka Gauravshali Itihas"** by Sh. Madnesh (Inspired by Sh. Sham Lal Sood of Amritsar) published in 1975 (Hindi)

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- (5) **"Origin of Soods - A Critical Analysis"** by Late Sh. Ram Rattan Sood, published in 1979.
  - (6) **"Lest We Forget Them" (Vol.-I)** by Late Sh. Ram Rattan Sood, published in 1981 - Life Sketches of some eminent Soods of the past.
  - (7) **"Lest We Forget Them" (Vol.-II)** by Late Sh. Ram Rattan Sood, published in 1985 - Our heritage & life sketches of some eminent Soods of the past.
  - (8) **"Soods - Are we here since the Vedic Ages"** - A critical analysis by Sh.P.R.Sood, IFS. Former Indian Ambassador to Tunisia. (Published in Sood Sandesh Vol. 25 & 26 - May-Oct. 1992).
  - (9) **Soods of North-West India - A Study** (Uttar-Paschim Bharat Ke Sood - Ek Avlokan) by Dr. Krishan Sharma, M.Sc., Ph.D., Deptt. Of Anthropology, Punjab University, Chandigarh. (Published in Sood Sandesh Oct., 2004 )
  - (10) **"Sud Dulhan"** - Legend of Jatheri at Gagret. "Exodus of Soods from Sirhind (Sudapur) and Tale of Robbery, Murder and Self-sacrifice by a Young Bride" by Hari K. Sud, Toronto (Canada) published in USA in April 2012.

After going through these books and articles propounding different theories about the Origin and History of Soods by illustrious authors of our Community, my curiosity to study the subject particularly the institution of caste system in India grew. I thought that such a study would provide an opportunity to learn about the evolution of society through the ages. History is not a mere compilation of events. Individuals who shape those events are also important. While studying history we have to draw a line between historical events and legends or narrations by the bards (bhats). We may not ignore the latter because their narrations ignite the spirit and raise our morals. But we cannot overlook the fact that these do not provide an authentic historical purview.



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The learned authors, mentioned above, have made commendable efforts to tap various resources and study vast material before writing these books. But unfortunately there is no unanimity amongst them about the source and origin of Soods. There are various reasons. One glaring aspect of Indian History is that it lacks trustworthy chronological order. In the opinion of a well-known historian Dr. R.C. Majumdar : *"One of the greatest defects of the Indian culture which defies rational explanation is the aversion of Indians to writing history. They applied themselves to all conceivable branches of literature and excelled in many of them but they never seriously took to the writing of history."*

The caste system has proved to be an obstacle in constructing the ancient history. The Hindu society was divided into four castes - varnas - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudra. Brahmins who were given the work of religion, education and literature claimed superiority over other castes. Several Indian Historians have lamented that Brahmins did not intentionally record the achievements of the people belonging to other castes. So due to the short sightedness of Brahmanic approach, it becomes difficult to re-construct the role which each caste has played in the development of the society or the origin of various castes. There is bewildering complexity and astonishing diversity regarding the literature on caste, race and tribes. While some historians claim that caste system was prevalent during Vedic Period, a majority have rejected this theory. They hold that during the Vedic period one's caste was not necessarily determined by that of one's family or birth and the caste system was mainly occupational and had the seeds of liberalism.

In the absence of authenticated source material, it is rather impossible to construct socio-history of any caste group. There are a large number of legends. Many legends are a recent creation. Historians have found that when communities became prosperous and acquired power, they adopted all means to upgrade their status retrospectively and claimed themselves to be the descendants of some Rishi, Sage or God. Similarly those who were close to the seat

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of power also manipulated to upgrade the status of their caste or sub caste. There are more than three thousand castes and several thousand sub-castes (Gotras) which has made the caste system more complex. For over two thousand years we were ruled by the Mughals and the British. Therefore, there is likelihood that our history and legacy was distorted or destroyed. Though, India spread knowledge to the world and is regarded as the oldest civilization, yet it is most unfortunate that we learn our history through the prism of foreigners - Chinese Travellers, Mughal Courtiers and British Historians. It was only during the nineteenth century that Indian Historians and Anthropologists devoted their time and energy to unfold the ancient history with nationalistic fervor.

Despite the factors mentioned above, which have added confusion, we greatly value the efforts of our Sood brethren who have written these books. We consider it our sacred duty to place before our community the work of these learned authors. On the basis of the study which I have undertaken, I would like to provide a brief analysis of the work of these learned authors.

### **"MUKAMMAL-E-TWAREEKH-E-SOODAN"**

Late Sh. Salamat Rai Sood has laboured hard to write this book which is in Urdu and was published in 1935. He deserves all appreciation for his extensive research to trace the origin of Soods and past history and put it in a chronological order to conclude that Soods are the descendants of Rajputs.

The author has quoted from the study of late Prof Rulya Ram Kashyap - a Sanskrit Scholar that the word 'Sood' appears in Vedas at 23 places - 15 times in Rig Ved, 6 times in Yajur Ved and twice in Atharva Ved. It means *"a courageous and a brave person or a victor of his enemies"*.

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With the spread of Buddhism, the old Vedic Dharma suffered set back. Greatly perturbed by this, Brahmin Rishis performed a Yajna at Mount Abu. From the sacred flames, four Kshatriyas emerged - The Parmars, the Parihars, the Solankis and the Chouhans; who took a vow to establish the ancient glory of Hindu Dharma. The second son born to Parmar was named Sood (or Sodha) and our community consequently bears that name. The capital of the kingdom of Sood dynasty for eight generations was Patten in Sind and later it was shifted to Alwar and finally Jai Singh, son of King Dahar shifted his capital to Amarkot, now in Pakistan. During this period, Sood empire had expanded and with a view to administer it properly, the whole area was divided into one hundred small states (Sau Gaddies).

There is another important incident which highlights the bravery of Soods. After defeating King Poras, Alexander advanced and reached the banks of river Beas. King Rai Shah sent his forces under the able command of Kidar Sood. Alexander had heard the stories of the bravery of Agnikul Rajputs and ultimately decided to retreat and return to Persia.

After the invasion of Muslims, not only Rajasthan but gradually entire India came under their rule. Soods who had established themselves in the North and later concentrated at Soodpur (now Sirhind) were attacked by the Muslim invaders and were forced to migrate to different cities and towns in Punjab and Hills of Himachal Pardesh. However, Sh. Madan Mohan Sood has another version about this incident. The two sons of Guru Gobind Singh ji were captured by Mughals and buried alive at Sirhind (now Fatehgarh Sahib). To take revenge, Banda Bahadur invaded the town and captured it. All Soods were ordered to leave the town or shifted to safer places and the entire town was plundered.

Shri Salam at Rai Sood has given chronological order and references from various sources to establish that Soods are infact the descendants of Rajputs.



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## **"ORIGIN & HISTORY OF SOODS" & "SOOD VANS KA GAURAVSHALI ITIHAS"**

All India Sood Conference held at Chandigarh in April, 1972 was presided over by Justice Tek Chand Sood, retired Judge of Punjab High Court. A sub committee consisting of Sh. Madan Mohan Sood, General Secretary, Sood Sabha, Chandigarh and Sh. Sham Lal Sood, Secretary, Sood Sabha, Amritsar was constituted to compile history of the community. However, both of them worked independently. In 1976 **"Origin & History of Soods"** by Late Sh. Madan Mohan Sood was published by Sood Sabha Chandigarh, whereas Sh. Sham Lal Sood engaged the services of a well-known historian Sh. Madnesh who had authored several books on Hindu Mythology and also wrote a book on Bhatia Community. **"Sood Vansh ka Gauravshali Itihas"** was written by him on the basis of material made available to him by Sh. Sham Lal Sood and Sh. Faqir Chand Sood, Editor, Sood Magazine.

The learned authors have concurred with Sh. Salamat Rai Sood that Soods were the descendants of Agnikul Rajputs. After a thorough study, Sh. Madan Mohan Sood has put the events in a chronological order and gathered some more historical information to substantiate the linkage of the community to Rajputs. He compiled the chronology of forty-four descendants of Parmar, one of the four warriors born out of sacred fire at Mount Abu whose second son was named Sood ( or Sodha ) and our community consequently bears that name. The capital of the kingdom of Sood dynasty for eight generations was Patten in Sind, later it was shifted to Alwar and finally Jai Singh son of king Dahar shifted his capital to Amarkot. The word "Sood" is of Sanskrit origin and according to Amar Kosh it means a courageous and a brave person or a victor of his enemies. It also means a man who can easily make progress.

Sh. Madan Mohan Sood had earlier approached All India Rajput Sabha with the evidence to prove that Soods were the descendants of Rajputs. The members of the Working Committee were convinced

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but he was told that the matter could be considered further if Sarvdeshi Sood Sabha, the All India body of Soods approached them. Disillusionment was in store for Sh. Madan Mohan Sood as there was no unanimity amongst members of the Sarvdeshi Sood Sabha. But it aroused considerable interest in the community and several articles appeared in Sood Samachar for and against this proposal. Ultimately the matter rested at that.

### **Sood Vanshawali**

Some prominent Sood members of Shimla including Lala Puran Mal Kuthiala, Lala Gobind Ram, Lala Dewan Mal Banta and Lala Devi Sharan Mithoo requisitioned the services of Raj Guru of Jubbal, Pt. Sant Ram Sharma to write history of the community, primarily to enlighten the younger generation with the rich heritage of the community, as they were coming under the influence of the locals. However, Sh. Madan Mohan Sood refers to different version, according to which, Brahmins and Rajputs refused to allow members of the Sood community to draw water from their Baories. Soods filed a suit in the court of Law. Raja of Jubbal sought the opinion of Raj Guru Pt. Sant Ram who then wrote 'Sood Vanshawali' tracing the origin of Soods to Rajputs. Soods won the case and all discriminations were removed.

Pt. Sant Ram has narrated several legends : Yagya at Mount Abu; 35 sons of Parmar; Patan being their seat of power; attacks by Muslim invaders; exodus of Soods from Sirhind towards Hills and several related mythological events of that period. The ancient history of Soods, according to him, was written by Hari Dass long back which needed further elaboration. He started compiling 'Sood Vanshawali' in July, 1902 and after completion, submitted the manuscript to Sood Sabha, Shimla in 1903. Fifty-five prominent members of the community including Sarvshri Jia Lal Kuthiala, Sita Ram Maria, Ram Saran Karol, besides those mentioned earlier, gathered at the shop of

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Lala Puran Mal Kuthiala to put their signatures on the manuscript. Similarly, thirty-six Soods from Hoshiarpur gathered at the shop of Vaid Banna Lai and seventy-eight from Kangra District met at the house of Rupa Mall Bhisha Mall at Garli and signed the manuscript. Thus, 'Sood Vanshavali' was accorded acceptance by the community.

Sh. Hari K. Sud author of '**Sud Dulhan**' has brought out some historical facts about concentration of Soods at Sirhind during the Mughal period, their forced migration to Hills consequent upon repeated attacks by Ahmed Shah Abdali and later plundering the town by S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia to take revenge. The learned author has, however, disagreed that Soods were descendants of Rajputs. Instead, he subscribes to the views that Soods are Khatri/Vaishya or Baniyas depending primarily on their 'Gotra' which is an important factor to establish the identity.

#### **"ORIGIN OF SOODS" - A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

Sh. Ram Rattan Sood has, however, differed with Sh. Salamat Rai Sood and Sh. Madan Mohan Sood that Soods are descendants of 'Rajputs' and has concluded that **Soods are Khatris**. He writes *"My investigation reveals that SUDA, SODHA, or SOGDI of Amarkot and its vicinity are quite different tribes from the Sood community. Sogdi name was given to Sodhas by Alexandar and their head-quarter was Amarkot in Sind. Now-a-days they are lakhs in number in Amarkot, Jaisalmer and Barmer area"*. He also writes that there is nothing common between these tribes and Soods of Punjab, as both tribes follow different traditions and customs. After making thorough study and going through available literature extensively, he has challenged the authenticity of several incidents and facts mentioned by both Sh. Salamat Rai Sood and Sh. Madan Mohan Sood in their books e.g. he writes: *"A list of Sau Gadies (100 states) has been given in three Sood histories. It is stated that this list has been taken from Chaj-Nama (right name is ch-ch-nama). I have read this book in Persian language*

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*in Dr. Zakir Hussain Library for fifteen days, but I could not locate any mention of any Sood State in it. I may also point out that King Dahar was not a Sood and as per genealogical table prepared by me from ch-ch-Nama clearly shows that Dahar was a Brahmin". As regards Alexandra's retreat from the banks of River Beas, Shri Ram Rattan Sood states: "I have studied several books pertaining to that period which give detailed description of Alexander's attack but there is no hint about Kaidar Rai Sood or Sood forces."*

He has put forth various arguments to establish that Soods are Khattris because both follow the same traditions, ceremonies, dress, eating habits, language etc. He has also stated that several Gotras of Soods are common with those of Khattris. The population of Soods as we all know was much less as compared to other khatri/vaishya communities. Therefore, when two or more communities are the inhabitant of same region for a pretty long time, common features do emerge particularly when their relationships are congenial and based on mutual respect.

## **OUR ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTRY**

### **LEST WE FORGET THEM (Vol. I & II)**

Whether we are from the Vedic Period; the descendants of Agnikul Rajputs or a part of the Khatri caste - this aspect may be of some academic interest for the students of History. However, we can form definite opinion about our illustrious ancestry and their philanthropic attributes, which are of real value for us. Our community forms only a small group of total Hindu population. When compared to other castes e.g. Khattris, Brahmins or Rajputs, whose population is many times more than the Soods, the number of eminent high court judges, army officers, doctors, lawyers, professionals and businessmen produced by our community is much higher than our share of the total population. We should be indebted to Shri Ram



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Rattan Sood for the two books written by him giving life sketches of about one hundred eminent Soods of the past, both from plains and Hills, who excelled in different fields viz. business, education, medical and other professions. Besides, 15 Sood families which occupied relatively high position in the Society have also been included. A cursory glance about the contribution of these prominent Soods will make us proud. It is evident that though the population of Soods was small, yet they were held in high esteem in the Society.

#### SOODS DURING THE BRITISH PERIOD

Whenever I had an occasion to interact with the members of our Community about our origin and our heritage, reference was invariably made to the 'derogatory remarks' the Britishers had made about Soods in their Census Reports. Late Sh. Madan Mohan Sood also referred to these remarks in his book 'History & Origin of Soods'. My curiosity grew to know these observations and when I started on this project, I became desperate to trace the publications and read the full text. Ultimately my son Manu Sood unveiled the suspense and after searching on the net, forwarded me the full text from book 'PANJAB CASTES' by Late Sir Ibbetson Denzil, I.C.S., Superintendent, Census Operation, Panjab, published in the year 1883. These observations appear at two places. On page 237 about professional traits; and the other relating to behaviour and social attributes appear on page 245. Sood Sabha has now acquired this book for its library.

According to the Census Report published in 1883, the Soods were classified as **Traders & Mercantiles**. Sir Ibbetson Denzil divided the entire trading community in to five groups. He writes... "The second group which included Sud is found only in the districts that lie under the hills on the northern border of the Province from Ambala to Rawalpindi.....".....*"They do not engage in carrying trade, nor do they traffic in cattle; being for the most part Hindus, they will not sell liquor or meat; and being of fair social standing they do not sell vegetables; but with these exceptions almost the whole of the mercantile and commercial transaction of the Province, are conducted by one or*

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*other of the castes which I have included in this abstract."*

*(Although in Hindi, word 'Sood' is pronounced with 'oo', but British spelled it as 'Sud')*

Population of Soods in the British State of Punjab which consisted of entire Hilly Area and the three Districts now in Pakistan - Lahore, Gujranwala and Sialkot was less than 20,000, as will be evident from the following figures: Very few Soods lived outside this area, which covers almost the entire northern region.

DISTRICT-WISE POPULATION OF SOODS- 1883

*(Source : PUNJAB CASTES by Sir Ibbetson Denzil - Page 238)*

Kangra	5775	Amritsar	1084
Ludhiana	2075	Hoshiarpur	1052
Patiala	2748	Kapurthala	708
Ambala	1637	Ferozepur	617
Lahore	479	Nabaha	177
Malerkotla	132	Nahan	98
Mandi	41	Faridkot	7
Bilaspur	11	Gujranwala	6
Nalagarh	11	Jind	2
Bushahr	4	Sialkot	1
Chamba	2		

It gives substance to the theory that Soods were settled mostly on the Indian side of the border; and later there was a large scale migration from Soodpur (now Sirhind) to the Hills notably Kangra, Paragpur, Garli, Palampur, Dehra, Pir-saluhi, Ambota, Amb, Solan, Shimla and other towns and villages of the Hills (composite Punjab).

After 1857 - First War of Independence, the Britishers, in order to

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strengthen their grip on Indian sub-continent, saw caste as an effective tool to deal with a huge population and divide it further. It was decided for the first time to conduct census based on tribes, castes and sub castes. Broadly all castes and sub castes were grouped in four categories in already prevailing Varna-vyavastha (Jaties) - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudra.

Customs, religious rites, rituals, profession, trade and other social and behavioral characteristics of various castes and tribes were analysed and published in **"A Glossary of Tribes & Castes of the Punjab & North West"** Volume I, II and III by H.A.Rose and **"Punjab Castes"** by Sir Denzill Ibbetson. These were important publications and for British rulers became the basis for deciding social hierarchy of different castes. But it caused a lot of unrest because damaging remarks about several castes, based on the anecdotes, unprintable derogatory jokes and taunts which usually are the creation of unscrupulous elements in the society were also accorded official patronage by mentioning these, while describing features of some of the castes including major castes like Baniyas (Aggarwal etc). Similar remarks about Sood Community appeared in Vol-III. We reproduce below, in full, observations made by the British at two places in the above referred documents:

#### **The Suds (Page 245)**

*The Suds are almost entirely confined to the lower hills and the districts that lie immediately under them as far as Amritsar. Their headquarters are at Ludhiana and neighbouring town of Machhiwara and they are, I believe, unknown outside the Panjab. They are almost wholly mercantile in their pursuits though occasionally taking service as clerks and occupy a social position markedly inferior to that of either the banya or the khatri. They wear a Janeyoo or sacred thread made of 3 instead of 6 strands and many of them practise widow marriage. With the exception of a few who are Sikhs, they are almost*

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*all Hindus but are, in comparison with the other mercantile castes, very lax in the observance of their religion. They indulge freely in meat and wine, and in habits, customs and social position resemble very closely the Kayaths. The tribe is apparently an ancient one but I can obtain no definite information as to its origin.*

*Various fanciful derivations of the tribal name are current, for the most part of an opprobrious nature. I attempted to make enquiries from some leading Suds; but the result was the assembling of a Panchayat, the ransacking of the Sanskrit classics for proof of their Kshatriya origin and a heated discussion in the journal of the Anjuman. They are divided into two main sections, the Uchandia or Sud of the hills and Newandia or Sud of the plains. I find, however, that some of the Suds of Hushyarpur trace their origin from Sarhind. They also distinguish the Suds who do not practice widow-marriage from those who do - calling the former 'khara' and the latter and their offspring 'gola'. The Suds forbid marriage in all four got, they are of good physique and are an intelligent and enterprising caste with great power of combination and self-restraint; and they have lately made what appears to be a really successful effort to reduce their marriage expenses by general agreement. The extensive sugar trade of Ludhiana, and generally the agricultural money lending of the richest part of the district, are almost entirely in their hands. They are proverbially acute and prosperous men of business and there is a saying: "If a Sud is 'across the river, leave your bundle on this side:' The husbandman of the village is a mere child in their hands."*

Here it may be made clear that by reproducing these observations, we do not wish to pat ourselves for the good words the Britishers have said and lament for the derogatory remarks they made about our caste about one and a half century back. Much water has flown down the Ganges since then and therefore, we should not give any cognizance to such remarks by the British who, in fact, treated all Indians as slaves.



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The methodology adopted to club various castes into four groups namely Brahmins Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudra was flawed and led to grossly erroneous conclusions. Prominent members of different castes lobbied hard to upgrade their 'ranking' by linking them with higher caste. Attempts were also made to down-grade other castes and a vicious atmosphere of distrust and mutual acrimony was created. Prominent members of Sood Community under the guidance of Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha also protested. At a Conference held at Lahore, a Committee was constituted with R.B. Mool Raj Sood, (Retd.) District & Session Judge as its Chairman to take up the matter with the British, however, nothing positive came out of it.

#### **SOODS IN 21st CENTURY**

Soods have always been generous and contributed liberally for the social activities like construction of Sarai/Dharamshalas, Schools, Dispensaries, Boulders (in hills for preserving water) etc. which benefitted the entire Society. There is a long list of philanthropists, prominent amongst them are R.B. Jodha Mal Kuthiala, R.B. Mohan Lal, R. S. Puran Mal Sood, Lala Buti Mal Butail, R.S. Radha Kishan Sood, Lala Mela Ram Sood (Mithoo), Lala Buti Ram Sood, Seth Sulakhan Singh Sood, Advocate Duni Chand Sood Ambalvi, Sh. Ganga Bishan Sood and several others.

Jallianwala Bagh massacre is an unforgettable chapter in the freedom movement of our country. Soods of the present generation will be proud to know that the public meeting held on 13th April, 1919, when General Dyer ordered indiscriminate firing, was presided over by a true nationalist **Dr. Gurbax Rai Sood** (The Tribune dated Sept. 9, 1969).

**Comrade Ram Nath Sood** of Moga was another prominent freedom fighter who was arrested in 1930 for picketing and jailed for five years and again from 1938 to 1942, he remained behind bars in Multan Jail for taking part in the freedom movement. Another freedom fighter Sh. Kalicharan Sood of Phagwara joined freedom movement

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at the age of 21. He spent about seven years in Jail. He was the nephew of Dr. Gurbax Rai Sood.

**Lala Mela Ram Sood** - prominent member of Biradari at Shimla presided over the Conference held at Palampur from 11th to 13th April, 1941. From the old records, we have found a part of the Presidential Address delivered by him which is being published with this article so that the posterity could have a glimpse of the events of that period. He also played a significant role in the freedom movement. In his well researched book, Simla - the Summer Capital of British India; Raaja Bhasin records:

*" ...the year that followed saw school-children (at Shimla) striking classes and 'camps' being opened; the house of Lala Mela Ram Sood on the Ganj Road was one of the main places where freedom fighters met..."*

Similarly, **Lala Amar Chand Sood**, prominent Advocate of Shimla also played significant role in the freedom movement and whenever Mahatama Gandhi or other Congress leaders visited summer capital, they were in the forefront in organizing public meetings.

The list of prominent Soods will not be complete if we do not mention Rai Bahadur Dr. Shiv Ram Kashyap, Professor of Botany, Govt. College, Lahore and a distinguished scientist of international fame. He has to his credit 46 publications and was honoured by Indian as well as foreign Universities. He was the father of legendary film actress Ms. Kamini Kaushal (Uma Devi).

After independence, at one occasion the top most administrative posts of Chief Secretaries of all the three States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were occupied by the Soods. The High Court of Himachal had fair number of Judges on its bench. There are twenty-two Bhawans//Dharamshalas at Chandigarh owned by different

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communities viz. Aggarwal Sabha, Mahajan Sabha, Khukrains, Saini, Rajput, Gulati, Brahman Sabha etc. But **SOOD BHAWANS** - both at Chandigarh and Panchkula have earned appreciation from the entire society for providing medical related services particularly to the weaker section, which is not available at any of these Bhawan/Dharamshala. The following services are provided at our Bhawans:

- ☛ Charitable Diagnostic Laboratory
- ☛ Physio-therapy Centre
- ☛ Allopathic & Homoeopathic Clinics
- ☛ Eye Clinic
- ☛ Meditation Centre & a Library

#### **Sood Dharamshala, Chandigarh**

Tulsi Ram Bhagirath Ram Charitable Society also known as Sood Dharmshala, Sector 22-D, Chandigarh, completed 50 years of service to the public. The Trust was formed by a joint venture between Sh. Tulsi Ram Ratni Devi Trust and Sh. Bhagirath Ram Sood Trust, both from Shimla. The construction of the Dharmshala commenced in March, 1962 and was completed in October, 1962. The foundation stone was laid by Justice Tek Chand Sood and the inauguration was done by Sh. Brish Bhan, Health Minister in Govt. of Punjab.

To start with, there were only sixteen rooms, office and a cafeteria. With an increasing demand by guests and goodwill of the trust, over a period of 50 years additional rooms with modern amenities were added. Currently there are more than 170 rooms which include AC rooms with TV, air cooled rooms, special and regular rooms, also there are four dormitories which are given to people without any charges. The cafeteria provides delicious and hygienic food to the guests of Sood Dharmshala at reasonable prices. Monetary help is given to the deserving students & poor families in order to help them & to encourage education among the youth. Help is also given to the aged, unsupported families.

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**Ram Mandir** and up-coming **Sood Bhawan** constructed by **Sood Sabha Shimla** and **Sood Sabha Hoshiarpur** respectively, are another centres for which the entire Sood Community feels proud of.

**On the basis of the study made by different scholars, noble and philanthropic acts of our ancestors, SOODS can rightfully claim that:**

- Soods are a progressive class with a positive and broad outlook.
- We are religious but not fanatics.
- We are proud of our caste but we do not believe in castiesm in the narrow sense.
- Our community is in the forefront in making liberal donations for any genuine social cause.
- We do not believe in 'caste patriotism' and work for the Society and the Nation.
- We value traditions without being orthodox;
- We respect our elders.
- On social front, we believe in a social order which provides full opportunity to each individual to grow.
- Our community vehemently condemn social evils like dowry, female feticide etc.

**Late Justice Tek Chand Sood's views about Soods should inspire our younger generation:**

*"If our community is to be judged from the common standards, we have no reason to feel ashamed of our short comings. Most communities have suffered in their moral and ethical values and so have we. But, by and large, we have not done badly as compared to others. The Sood Community has a high sense of service, dignity and*



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*duty. I have never come across a Sood begging alms or trying to make out a living by ignoble or dishonorable means. By and large the Soods are hard-working and industrious and wherever business, trade or professions have taken them, they have earned good opinions, respect and confidence of the people with whom they have come into contact. On the whole the members of our community have always conducted themselves with self-respect, dignity and honesty. It is one feature of our Community which deserves to be highlighted that very few Soods demean themselves or engage themselves in anti social activities. In my entire life in Courts, I can hardly recall one or two cases of Soods committing crimes. Not many Communities have such a record."*

#### **MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH**

It is true that the attitude of the younger generation towards life has apparently changed. Therefore, instead of looking back and clinging to the past, we should encourage our youth to come up with new ideas to strengthen the social structure. It will happen only if we channelise youth power to undertake such activities which are for the benefit of the society and make them realize that they are an integral part of it.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I have made a humble attempt to present to the Community, synopsis of some well-articulated work of Sood Authors who laboured hard to collect information from various sources, dug up evidence to connect missing links from the hazy past and authored these books. As a matter of fact, to trace the origin of Soods, and for that matter of any other caste, irrespective of their claims or status, is an intricate, complex and near impossible assignment, for the reasons detailed in above paragraphs.

I began this feature by quoting from Bhavishya Puran which in a way, was my humble attempt to pay obeisance to the God - The Supreme Power of this Universe.

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We, the mortals, have not been able to find a satisfactory answer to the question as to what is our origin. When, in doubt, we try to find solutions in our holy scriptures. Therefore, a Pauranik Katha, illustrated here, should help us to set at rest our doubts about our origin.

***"Lord Brahma, the Creator of the Universe, has lotus flower as his natural Abode. According to a Pauranik Katha (mythological legend), Brahma Ji thought that though He is the creator of the Universe, His own origin is shrouded in mystery. Was He self-born or a seed that later became golden egg from where He was born? There were several other legends which find place in the Puranas. So Brahma Ji decided to ascertain his real origin. He moved down deep through the hollow stem of the lotus, went deep and deep into the water from where the stem of the lotus emerged but could not find its other end. Disheartened and unable to trace the origin, HE returned to his abode on the Lotus Flower and went into deep meditation. Then HE was bestowed with eternal knowledge and enlightenment of the 'param-gyan' - though HE was the Creator, Supreme and Omnipresent, yet his true origin is not outside his body. It is within his own self."***

Lord Brahma has lotus as his abode. Why Lotus? Because its stem, with its roots in the water obtains all its energy from it. Whether the water is muddy, stinking, full of insects has no effect. Lotus is still considered sacred. Our Holy Scriptures, sages and saints lay stress to look beyond our body which is the prisoner of our karmas.

As a child we come to this world through the womb of our mother. This is the biological source of our body. We are the mortals. To know the origin of our soul, we should seek enlightenment of the '**param-tatva**' which is possible only through, spiritual wisdom, deep meditation, renunciation of the worldly attachments and doing something positive for the society.

I may emphatically make it clear that as per the guidelines given to me by the Managing Committee of the Sood Sabha, it has never

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been our intention to contradict any theory about the History and Origin of Soods, nor we have tried to propound any new philosophy for getting 'kudos' or appreciation. "Service to the Society" is the main task which our past history has assigned to us; and we earnestly seek the blessings of our enlightened Community so that we may continue to pursue the same with a missionary zeal.

I am concluding it with an invocation to Lord Brahma - the Creator :

**"God has blessed us with Infinite Creative Power;**

**We are the power of Spirit; The dynamic source of our soul.**

**We shall create revelations:**

**in the world of wisdom & in the world of thought,**

**We shall not leave this mortal world without some  
accomplishments.**

**We seek "HIS" divine blessings not to deviate from the path  
of righteousness whatever be the temptations."**



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**References :**

- Work of Sood Scholars referred to above. —Amartya Sen illustrating caste discussion in Mahabharata and Bhavishya Puran.
- Caste & Race in India by G.S.Ghurye.
- "A Brief ethnological survey of the Khattris" by M.L.Seth.

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## **Glorious Journey of SOOD SABHA CHANDIGARH (Regd.)**

**The successful journey of the Sood Sabha Chandigarh is a saga of dedicated team work, self-less commitment to serve the Biradari and vision to expand the activities, keeping in view the changing social concepts.**

An essential feature of our social life is our interdependence. Usually we look to the members of our own community for emotional support and security. Today, people living in cosmopolitan cities may consider this concept out-moded but till fifties and the sixties, it was not so. Old traditions were gladly followed and biradari system was strong. In almost every major town and city, Sood Sabhas were actively functioning under the aegis of Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha. Therefore, it was obvious that Sood families residing in the new city of Chandigarh also felt the need to form a Sood Sabha. Chandigarh has 'Open Hand' as its official emblem which stands for "Open to Give and Open to Receive" - signifying that the city would welcome people to come and make it their home. At the initial stage the inhabitants of the city were mostly government employees and traders who came from different places and started settling here. Gradually the process of socializing also began.

Sh. Bal Krishan Sood, now 83, the oldest member amongst us, who is associated with the Sabha since its inception, recalls: *"The initiative to form Sood Sabha was taken by Sh. Madan Mohan Sood, P.A. to Minister, Local Bodies, Punjab. He convened a meeting at his residence on 18th Nov., 1958 which was attended by : Sarvshri D.R. Kashyap, Sardari Lal Sood, Pyare Lal Sood. Amar Nath Sood, a businessman (also known as Lal Kothiwal of Sec. 8), Bal Krishan*

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*Sood, Puran Chand Sood, Kanwar Lal Sood, P.N. Sood and Baldev Sood. Members present in the meeting appreciated the initiative and assured of their full support in this endeavor. It was decided to hold a formal meeting on Sunday the 14th Dec., 1958 which was held at the residence of Sh. Kewal Krishan Sood and presided over by Sh. Telu Ram Mohindra, General Secretary, Sarvdeshek Sood Sabha (a Journalist at Ludhiana) specially invited for this purpose." About 40 members were present and the following Office Bearers were unanimously elected:*

President	—	Sh. Amar Chand Hoshiarpuri, Advocate
Vice Presidents	—	Sh. D.R. Kashyap
		Sh. Brahm Sarup Mohindra
General Secretary	—	Sh. Madan Mohan Sood
Secretary	—	Sh. Bal Krishan Sood
Finance Secretary	—	Sh. Sardari Lal Sood

**Thus, the foundation of the Sood Sabha, Chandigarh was formally laid.**

#### **FIRST SOOD MELA**

The main challenge before the newly formed Executive Committee was how to associate maximum members of the community with the Sabha. It was decided to hold a Sood Mela at Janj Ghar in Sector 23 in February, 1959. It was a grand success as almost all Sood families residing in the city and the surrounding areas enthusiastically converged to participate in the day long function. Its success inspired the organizers to make it a regular annual feature.

Unfortunately no record about the meetings or any other activity of the Sabha since its formation in 1958 till 1976-77 is available. In all fairness, whatever is known is based on the verbal narration by a few senior members.



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It goes to the credit of the founder members that they continued their efforts to strengthen the Sabha and increase its membership. Octogenarian Sh. Bal Krishan Sood further recalls, *"Population of the city was confined to a few Sectors only. Cycle was the cheapest and the easiest mode of conveyance, So the more enthusiasts amongst us namely Sh. Kanwar Lal Sood, Sh. Ved Parkash Sood and Sh. Puran Chand Sood started contacting Sood families to collect monthly subscription which was four annas in those days."* Later, the Sabha engaged the services of Shri Thakar Dass Sood on a nominal remuneration, who despite his old age, served the Sabha sincerely and used to go door to door to collect subscription and deliver all communications issued by the Committee. Organizing annual Sood Melas was the only regular feature which was eagerly looked forward to by the Sood families. Prominent members from the community were invited as Chief Guest. Expenses for holding the Mela were met by making collection from the members of the local Sood biradari. The deficit, if any, was compensated by the members of the Committee to ensure that whatever small funds the Sabha had in the reserve, were not affected.

Another important decision was taken to reach out to the community members and publish a quarterly magazine - **Sood Sandesh**. Due to paucity of funds, the Sabha started with a four page cyclostyled News Letter which contained biradari news and matrimonial advertisements etc. These two activities kept the Sabha alive and active.

For almost fifteen years the Sabha continued treading the old path, so it was time for a change which was brought about by Late Sh. Harish Sood and some other members. He wrote in an article **"Story of Success in the Face of Hurdles"** published in a souvenir issued on the occasion of Sarvadeshik Sood Conference held at Chandigarh in April, 1985:

*"About a couple of years ago, I alongwith my other colleagues, most of whom are at present the active office bearers of the Sabha*

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*attended a Sood Mela. In the course of that event we realized that we were lagging behind in many ways. A segment of that congregation consisting of young people, decided then and there to bring about a revolutionary change in the whole set-up. We found some difficulty in entering the active life of the Sabha because of our age factor. However, a dedicated team comprising of Sh. Hari Om Sood, Sh. Brij Sood, Sh. Dharam Inder Sood and a few others started working earnestly and decided to take active part in the affairs of the Sabha."*

The new team which took over the reins of the Sabha after the elections held in 1976 reflected a healthy combination of young and senior members :

Advisors	:	Sh. D.R. Kashyap Sh. Brham Sarup Mohindra.
<b>President</b>	:	<b>Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar</b>
Sr. Vice President	:	Sh. Madan Mohan Sood
Vice Presidents	:	Sh. Bhag Mal Sood Sh. Paramjit Kumar
<b>General Secretary</b>	:	<b>Sh. Dharam Inder Sood</b>
Finance Secretary	:	Sh. Brij Krishan Sood
Secretary	:	Sh. Bal Krishan Sood
Organizing Secretary	:	Sh. Harish Sood
Publicity Secretary	:	Sh. Hari Om Sood

These elections can be termed as a turning point which affected the course of the history of the Sabha. Sh. Dharam Inder Sood, had migrated from Tanzania (East Africa) and belonged to a progressive family. He was also associated with such international organizations like Lions Club. Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar, owner of a centrally located petrol pump in Sector 22, was known for his benevolence and amiable nature, always ready to help the needy members of the biradri. Service to the community was close to the heart of Sh. Bhag Mal Sood. Before starting his own automobile business, Sh. Harish Sood was in service; being a trade unionist, he was very vocal and a good organizer. Sh. Brij Sood had studied at the prestigious Lawrence

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School, Sanawar and was a member of the Local Advisory Council, constituted by the UT administration, representing the business community of the Grain Market. Later, Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, Sh. Bipan Chand Sood and Sh. Kishore Chand Mehdoodia also joined this core group.

#### **SOOD BHAWAN, CHANDIGARH - A DREAM FULFILLED**

Need for Sood Bhawan was being felt for a long time particularly when other communities had taken a lead and owned plots for constructing Bhawans/Dharamshalas. After protracted deliberations all hurdles were cleared and ultimately at a meeting held on 4th January, 1981 at the residence of Late Sh. Mansha Ram Sood (father of Sh. Hari Om Sood), the Managing Committee adopted the following resolution:

*"Unanimously resolved that the Sood Sabha should apply to the Chandigarh Administration for allotment of a 8-kanal plot for the welfare of the old, needy, handicapped persons and for a training institute for the widows, children's library and free dispensary. It is also hereby resolved to authorize Sh. Harish Sood, Organising Secretary to complete the relevant documents, application etc. and present the same before Chandigarh Administration..."*

It was a historic decision, but the sailing was still not smooth. The main obstacle was requirement of huge funds for this project. There were other apprehensions also expressed by some members. Ultimately all doubts were laid to rest when an idea was mooted to constitute a Trust comprising of senior members for collecting funds and also to look after the construction activities.

On 23rd January, 1984 a delegation of the Sabha met Sh. K. Banerji, the then Chief Commissioner UT and submitted an application for allotment of land for Sood Bhawan/Dharamsala.

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***There is an old saying that when you really want something,  
the whole universe conspires to help you achieve it.***

Sh. Harish Sood was a dynamic and a charismatic leader. He was also the General Secretary of Chandigarh Citizens' Council which was formed to create public opinion for retention of the City as Union Territory. He led a delegation of Chandigarh Youths to Delhi and met Sh. Rajiv Gandhi, the then General Secretary of the Congress Party. The movement brought him to the limelight and consequently he developed good rapport with the local Administration. The untiring efforts bore fruit when vide letter No.12462/RCE-558/M/G-III dated 17.6.1986, a plot in Sector 44-A, measuring 2021 Sq.Yards @ Rs.130/- per sq.yd. at a total cost of Rs.2,62,730/- was allotted to the Sabha. The entire Committee was ecstatic and rejoiced the moment as its long cherished dream to have a Sood Bhawan for the community at Chandigarh was realized. There were sad moments also because Sh. Bhag Mal Sood, President who was a great motivator, unfortunately did not live to see this historic moment, having left for his Heavenly Abode on January 26, 1986.

#### **FOUNDATION STONE & BHUMI POOJA**

During All India Sood Conference held at Chandigarh in April, 1985, Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood of Shimla had announced a substantial donation of Rs. One Lac to the Sabha for construction of Sood Bhawan. This magnanimous act enthused a new confidence amongst the members. As a gesture of gratitude, his wife Smt. Gayatri Devi was invited to lay foundation stone for Sood Bhawan on 22nd October, 1986. Finally construction was started on 11th January, 1987 after performing Havan and Bhoomi Pooja. All senior members participated and paid obeisance to the Almighty and also prayed that the Sabha be bestowed with strength to accomplish the assignment it had undertaken.

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## SOOD BHAWAN AT PANCHKULA

Although an application for a plot at Chandigarh was still pending and the position of funds with the Sabha was also not very satisfactory, yet the Sabha decided to try its luck at Panchkula also. It is rightly said that the brave and the visionaries do not wait for the opportunities to come their way. On 6th Jan., 1985 a decision was taken to: "*apply for an eight-kanal plot at Panchkula for construction of Dharamsala which will be for the welfare of the old, needy...and in addition, there will be a library, free dispensary.... facilities for marriages and other functions etc.....*" A delegation consisting of Sh. Harish Sood, Sh. Brij Sood and Sh. Hari Om Sood accompanied by Sh. P.D.Mohindra Senior Correspondent, The Tribune, met the then Chief Minister Sh. Bhajan Lal. Ultimately their efforts were rewarded and vide letter dated March 6, 1986 HUDA informed that a "*decision has been taken to allot 1718.75 sq.mt. plot in Sector 10, Panchkula at a tentative cost of 92,808/- (later fixed at 1,48,139.60).*" Infact ours was the first Sabha to be allotted a plot at concessional rates at Panchkula.

On the auspicious day of 12th December, 1990, after performing Bhoomi Pooja, the foundation stone for the Multipurpose Hall was laid by **Dr. Mukand Lal Sood** of Shimla. It was a great achievement for the Sabha which now owned two plots.

## FUNDS & CONSTRUCTION OF SOOD BHAWANS

The Sabha had come a long way and there was no question of putting hands down. The real test lay ahead because the construction of the Bhawans was a huge task facing it. Whirlwind tours were undertaken by the members of the Managing Committee to different towns of Panjab and Himachal Pradesh for raising funds under the guidance of Sh. Brahm Datt Sood, President, Sarvdeshik Sood Sabha who also contributed Rs. 23,500/- lying in the account of the Sarvdeshik Sood Sabha. Appeals were also made through the columns of SOOD SANDESH. Affluent relatives were contacted and



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persuaded for donations. 'Charity begins at home' true to this dictum several members of the Committee came forward for donations for rooms.

**A complete list of all the benevolent donors who made donations for Multipurpose Halls/rooms and other social projects is available at page 126. The generous donors who were first to make substantial donations when the Sabha was in dire need of funds at the initial stage of construction, included Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood, Dr. Mukand Lal Sood, Sh. Hanwant Rai Sood, Sh. Des Raj Bowry from U.K., Sh. Manohar Lal Sood from Assam, Sh. Rajan Mayor, Dr. Shakuntala Sood, Dr. Madhu Sood Charitable Trust, Delhi and Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry from Bangalore. The Sabha would remain indebted to them for ever.**

#### **SOOD SEWA BHAWAN TRUST**

In a social organization while taking any major decision like creating immovable assets, one has to be cautious and take into account its implications also. Purchasing of land and construction of Bhawans was a major decision. Therefore, a need was felt to constitute a Trust consisting of senior members for the construction and maintenance of Sood Bhawans. The matter was discussed in several meetings and finally on 3rd July, 1983 with Late Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar in the Chair, it was decided to constitute a sub committee to formulate the details. The matter continued to be debated and ultimately on 6th April, 1986 it was *"unanimously resolved that a Trust may be formed for the sole purpose of the construction of Sood Bhawans in Chandigarh and Panchkula and their maintenance."* This is how SOOD SEWA BHAWAN TRUST came into being and was registered on 19th May, 1986. The following were made the Trustees :

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- |    |                       |   |                   |
|----|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Sh. V.K. Sood         | — | Chairman          |
| 2. | Sh. Dharam Inder Sood | — | Vice Chairman     |
| 3. | Sh. Harish Sood       | — | General Secretary |
| 4. | Sh. Brij Krishan Sood | — | Finance Secretary |

*Members :*

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 5. | Sh. Hari Om Sood            |
| 6. | Sh. Kishore Chand Mehdoodia |
| 7. | Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood        |
| 8. | Sh. Bipan Chand Sood        |

It was decided that the Trust would undertake such activities which are for the benefit of the society, without consideration of caste or creed. Donation to the Trust also became eligible for income tax concession under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act. For the generous donors, relief in income tax was an additional advantage. At present the trust consists of :

- |                       |   |                          |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sh. V.K. Sood         | — | Chairman                 |
| Sh. Bipan Chand Sood  | — | Vice Chairman            |
| Sh. Sh. Surinder Sood | — | General Secretary        |
| Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood  | — | Finance Secretary        |
| Sh. Brij Sood         | — | Asstt. Finance Secretary |

*Members :*

- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| Sh. Hari Om Sood        |
| Sh. Bal Krishan Sood    |
| Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood     |
| Sh. S.K. Sood, Advocate |

During the intervening period Late Lt. Col. Sham Lal Sood also served as General Secretary. To ensure proper co-ordination between the Sabha and the Trust, it was decided that the General Secretary of the Sabha will also be a member of the Trust.

The Trust is performing its role with diligence, without deviating from the over-all objectives of the Sabha. The accounts of the Trust

are properly audited every year and presented in the General Body meeting of the Sabha for approval.

**Construction Committee** comprising of the following members, was constituted to oversee construction work, seek technical advice and also to ensure that construction material of standard quality at competitive rates is purchased.

Sh. Bipan Chand Sood	—	Chairman
Sh. Kishore Chand Mehdoodia	—	Member
Sh. Brij Sood	—	Member
Sh. Hari Om Sood	—	Member
Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood	—	Member

The members started meeting at the office of the Sabha every Sunday to evaluate the progress of construction work and to chalk out the future course of action.

The enormity of the enthusiasm of the members of the Sabha could be gauged from the fact that even the paucity of funds was not allowed to cause delay in the construction schedule which continued uninterrupted, although at times it required advancing personal loans. Two instances are worth quoting. In February, 1993 a notice was received from HUDA for depositing the balance amount of Rs. 1,13,740/- within 30 days. It was an alarming situation as there were no funds with the Sabha. At this juncture, all members of the Managing Committee came forward and deposited Rs.2000/- each with the Sabha. The balance amount of Rs. 60,000/- was given by Sh. V. K. Sood, Chairman. The other instance relates to providing beds at Sood Bhawan, Chandigarh.

Rooms at the Ground Floor were ready but there were no funds for purchasing Beds. In the meeting held on 30th July, 1989, ten members of the Committee donated Rs. 500/- each being the cost of one Bed, thus, five rooms were furnished.

The increase in the pace of the construction activities inspired and stimulated the members of the community and many of them came forward to donate amount fixed by the Sabha for rooms in the memory of their near and dear ones.

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## FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

From a humble beginning, the progress made by the Sabha during the span of over five decades is awesome. Reason ? Total commitment, austerity and financial discipline. Following extracts from the 'minute books' need no further elaboration:

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Managing Committee held on 13th July, 1980:**

*"Sh. Brij Sood, Financial Secretary intimated that an expense of Rs.418/- were incurred on the occasion of 'get-together' held on 18th May, 1980 at the TTI, Sector 26, where picture 'Sanyasi' was screened and refreshments served. Out of Rs. 418/-, Rs. 90/- were collected from tambola, leaving a deficit of Rs. 328/- which was to be shared by the willing members of the Committee as per decision taken in the earlier meeting. Following members donated to make up this expenditure:*

<i>Sh. Bhag Mal Sood</i>	<i>.. Rs.105/-</i>
<i>Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar</i>	<i>.. Rs.100/-</i>
<i>Sh. Brij Sood</i>	<i>.. Rs. 51/-</i>
<i>Sh. Dharam Inder Sood</i>	<i>.. Rs. 51/-</i>
<i>Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood</i>	<i>.. Rs. 21/-</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>.. Rs. 328/-</b>

*Ice for serving drinking water was donated by Sh. Harish Sood and fruits by M/s Sood Brothers of which Sh. Mansha Ram Sood a member of the Managing Committee is a partner."*

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Managing Committee held on 7th August, 1983:**

*The accounts for the 'mango party' were placed before the House by Sh. Brij Sood. The main feature of accounts were that the entire expenses of Rs.1299/- were met by the members of the Managing Committee by personal contribution and it was not a burden on the Sabha."*

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Today, expenses of Rs. 418/- or Rs. 1299/- may seem insignificant but we cannot overlook the spirit with which the members of the then Managing Committee managed the financial affairs of the Sabha. We really feel proud that we are the inheritors of the value system which was so assiduously followed by them.

For sometime, the All India Body was not active. The Sabha took the initiative to hold three All India conferences at Chandigarh which also helped in mobilizing donations for construction of Bhawans.

#### **SARVDESHIK SOOD SABHA SAMMELAN**

It was held at Panchayat Bhawan, Chandigarh on 15th and 16th April, 1972. Justice Tak Chand was elected President and Sh. Des Raj Kashyap, General Secretary. In this Sammellan, a Committee consisting of Sh. Madan Mohan Sood, General Secretary, Sood Sabha Chandigarh and Sh. Sham Lal Sood, Secretary, Sood Sabha Amritsar was constituted to write Sood History.

#### **ALL INDIA SOOD SAMMELAN**

This was a historic meeting held at the prestigious Tagore Theatre on 1st January, 1984. Sh. V. K. Sood was the Chief Guest. More than 200 delegates from all over India and abroad participated in the Sammellan, besides about 500 members from the City Beautiful and surrounding areas also took part.

#### **SARVDESHIK SOOD CONFERENCE**

The Conference was held on 13th and 14th April, 1985 and an impressive Souvenir was also published on this occasion. President/General Secretary from several Sood Sabha including Shimla, Ambala, Dehradun, Hoshiarpur, Patiala, Morinda, Bhadsar (Pb.), Maranda (H.P.) attended the conference. The success of these Conferences took the Sabha to new heights and it acquired a place of pride in the entire community.



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## **SOCIAL PROJECTS**

### **ANOTHER FEATHER FOR SOOD SABHA**

Our holy scriptures teach us that selfless service to society is a true 'Sadhna'. There are several organizations which work for the upliftment and welfare of their own community. However, one of the major objectives of the Sood Sabha is to encourage such projects which are for the benefit of the Society as a whole. At times, fresh ideas are received from some unexpected sources. Sood Sabha, Phagwara, organized 'Sood Parivar Milan Mela' on April 24, 1999. Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, Sh. Bal Krishan Sood and myself represented the Sabha. Shri N.K. Sood was the Guest of Honour. He was a leading Advocate; later elevated as a Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court and retired as Lokayukt, Haryana. In his address he said, "I appreciate the efforts of Sood Sabha Phagwara for organizing the function, but the real objective of the Sabha should be to honour its social obligations, otherwise such Melas would become a refined form of Kitty Parties." I was greatly impressed with these noble thoughts and understood the value of rendering service to the society through the platform of the Sabha. I always laid emphasis that the land was allotted to the Sabha for undertaking such activities which are for the benefit of the Society and our Bhawans should not be converted into marriage palaces or hotels. I was supported by Shri Brij Sood, Late Lt.Col. Sham Lal Sood, the then General Secretary Sh. Ashwani Doegar and other members.

As usual, any fresh idea gives rise to apprehensions but ultimately those with progressive plans steer through and achieve their objectives. Having overcome the strains of financial crises, the time now was ripe to give new dimensions to the activities of the Sabha.

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**The longest journey starts with a single step** - A humble beginning was made when a 15-day Yoga Camp was organized in June, 1999 at Chandigarh Bhawan. Services of a qualified Yoga Instructor from government run Yoga Institute were requisitioned. In fact, the southern sectors of Chandigarh did not have any Centre for such activities. So the camp evoked good response as people in large numbers turned out to attend it. The camp received wide coverage in the local Press including The Tribune. Since then, regularly Yoga classes are held at Sood Bhawan.

#### **HOMOEOPATHIC DISPENSARY**

The first social project started by the Sabha at Sood Bhawan Chandigarh was the establishment of a Homoeopathic Dispensary in June 2000 at the initiative of Late Lt. Col. Sham Lal Sood, the then General Secretary who persuaded the Sabha to start the dispensary in association with Apjit Puri Memorial Trust. The dispensary is successfully functioning under Dr. Sukhbir Chopra, M.D. (Homeo) who is serving with dedication since June, 2000.

Similarly, Sabha has opened a Homoeopathic Dispensary at Panchkula Bhawan which has also become very popular in the area. In the year 2003, the following members were elected as Office Bearers :

<b>President</b>	<b>Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood</b>
Sr. Vice Presidents	Lt.Col. Sham Lal Sood
	Sh. Ashwani Doegar
Vice Presidents	Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood
	Sh. Kapil Goel
	Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud
<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Sh. Surinder Sood</b>
Finance Secretary	Sh. Umesh Sood
Secretary	Sh. Rajinder Sood
Publicity Secretary	Sh. Raj Kumar Maria

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### CHARITABLE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

This is the most prestigious project established by the Sabha at Chandigarh Bhawan in February, 2003 at a total cost of about Rs. Six lacs. The laboratory is equipped with a fully computerized Semi-auto-analyser( RA-50 ). Haematology, Bio-chemistry, Urine and Stool tests are done at a very nominal charges i.e. on 'no profit no loss' basis. Substantial financial contribution of Rs. Seven Lacs was made by Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry, my first cousin, residing at Bangalore, who made this donation in the memory of his wife Late Smt. Sundershan Bowry. Sh. Ashwani Doegar the then General Secretary played an important role in persuading Dr. Rajender Kalra, former Medical Superintendent, PGI, Chandigarh to provide technical advice. Dr. Kalra along with Dr. M.L. Rattan, former Head of the Haematology Laboratory. PGI are looking after the functioning of the Laboratory, which was inaugurated by Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, President, Sood Sabha, who also made a donation of Rs. 50,000/- in memory of his wife Smt. Sudershan Sood. The Laboratory has become very popular and is known for the accuracy of the results.

A multi-channel **computerized ECG machine** has also been added.

The Sabha also established a Charitable Diagnostic Laboratory at Sood Bhawan, Panchkula which was inaugurated on 23rd Feb., 2005 by Sh. V.K. Sood, Chairman, Sood Sewa Bhawan Trust.

Now a days medical treatment has become very expensive and beyond the reach of the common man. Diabetics and other patients are generally reluctant to get regular blood tests in view of the high cost in the market. But at the laboratories at Sood Bhawans the charges are nominal e.g. sugar test at these Laboratories costs Rs.10/- and full package of 27 tests including lipid profile, renal test - (RFT) and liver test (LFT) cost only Rs.500/- to 600/- approx. Thus, the real service is being provided to the Society at a nominal cost.

Since the load of work at both the Laboratories has increased

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manifold, the Sabha proposes to install the latest models of fully automatic computerised analysers.

25% discount is given to the members of the Sood biradari. From the poor patients no charges are made.

### **PHYSIOTHERAPY & REHABILITATION CENTRES**

Equipped with Short-wave Diathermy, R.F.T., TENS, Electronically operated Cervical and Lumbar Traction machines, Wax Bath, Moist and Heat Therapy, Exercisers, Shoulder Wheels and Pulleys, the Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centres at both the Bhawans are functioning successfully. Well qualified and competent Physiotherapists provide necessary treatment to the patients at nominal rates. Both these Centres have proved to be of great help to the patients suffering from various muscular and neurological problems such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, cervical or lumbar spondylosis, frozen shoulder, cerebral palsy, nerve injuries, sprains, strains, loss of strength and movement after fractures and joint replacement surgeries.

For Chandigarh Centre Sh. Pran Nath Sood, donated Rs. Three lacs in the memory of his wife Late Smt. Lata Sood and for Panchkula Centre Sh. M.M. Langha made a donation of Rs. 1.25 lacs.

### **ALLOPATHIC CLINICS**

At Sood Bhawan, Chandigarh Dr. Rajender Kalra, former Medical Supdt. PGI and Dr. J.K. Kalra, former SMO, Govt. Hospital, Sector 16, Chandigarh are available on working days for consultation. Dr. B. L. Bansal, MBBS, Ex- C.M.O. ( Pb.) provides free consultation at Sood Bhawan, Panchkula.

Medicines are also provided free to the poor patients at both the Clinics.

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### **EYE CLINIC**

The Sabha has opened an Eye Clinic at Sood Bhawan, Chandigarh which was inaugurated by Mrs. Anu Chatrath, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh on 25th April, 2010. Dr. Sunandan Sood, Prof. & Head, Ophthalmology Deptt., Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Sec.32, Chandigarh presided over the Inaugural function. Dr. Neeraj Sood, M.S.(PGI) provides consultation. At the Clinic, treatment is provided for Refractive Errors, Cataract Screening, Glaucoma & Diabetic Eye Diseases etc.

### **MEDITATION CENTRE & LIBRARY AT SOOD BHAWAN, CHANDIGARH**

Our Sabha has taken a noble step by establishing a Meditation Centre and Library at Sood Bhawan Chandigarh which was inaugurated on 19th July, 2009 by Rev. Smt. Sushila Doegar wife of late Shri Jagdish Ram Doegar former President and Patron of the Sabha. She represents those senior members who fifty years ago, took a thoughtful decision to establish the Sabha. The inaugural function was presided over by Hon'ble Justice N. K. Sud, Lokayukt, Haryana who is a beacon of inspiration for us. A Library has also been added to the Centre where inspirational and motivational books written by some of the eminent writers and thinkers are available.

It is our endeavour that we make Sood Bhawans a place where such social activities are undertaken which create harmony, brotherhood and peace in the Society and also provide an opportunity to spend some time in the serene and calm environments. Establishing a Meditation Centre and Library are no doubt a positive step in that direction keeping in view the over all objectives of the Sabha.

### **BLOOD DONATION AND MEDICAL CHECK UP CAMPS**

First Blood Donation Camp was organized by the Sabha on 20th

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March, 2004. Since then regularly such camps are being organized successfully. Similarly, Eye, Dental and Medical Check Up Camps have been held from time to time where free medicines were provided to the poor patients.

#### **EYE DONATION PLEDGE**

In September every year, Eye Donation Fortnight is organized in the country to educate the masses about the significance of eye donation after death. A donor gives the precious gift to enable two persons to see the world through his eyes after he has left for his Heavenly Abode. For three consecutive years since 2006, the Sabha held Camps in collaboration with the Eye Deptt., GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh. So far about 150 Pledge Forms have been filled in.

#### **FREE REIKI TREATMENT**

Free Reiki Healing sessions are also held twice a week for general public.

#### **FINANCIAL AID TO POOR STUDENTS AND WIDOWS**

It has been the endeavor of the Managing Committee to provide financial aid to the brilliant students who are unable to continue their studies due to financial constraints of the family. In 1988-89, Late Sh. Manohar Lal Mohindra from Assam sponsored stipend for the students in the memory of his wife Late Smt. Shakuntala Devi Mohindra by giving a substantial donation of Rs. One Lac to the Sabha. Poor widows of the biradari were also given monthly financial aid. Even when the Sabha was itself under pressure due to construction activities, the financial aid to the needy families were not stopped. Presently financial aid of Rs. 1000/- per month is given to 16 needy Sood Families.

**Donation to Prime Minister Relief Fund** - Whenever there was a national calamity, the Sabha rose to the occasion and made



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donation to the Prime Minister Relief Fund. Rs. 11,000/- were donated when the Tsunami hit the coastal areas and another amount of Rs. 11,000/- was given for the victims of cloud burst at Leh ( J & K ).

#### **ACCOMMODATION AT SOOD BHAWANS**

In addition to the rooms which are being used for office and other social activities, following accommodation is available:

##### **AT CHANDIGARH**

**Ground Floor** — Multipurpose Hall, Dining Hall and two rooms.

**First Floor** — Meditation Hall, Multipurpose Hall, two Master Rooms and six rooms.

**Second Floor** — Conference Room, One Master Room and nine rooms.

(Revised plan for third floor has been submitted to the Estate Office for sanction which will have one Mini Hall and six rooms)

##### **AT PANCHKULA**

**Ground Floor** - Multipurpose Hall and five rooms.

**Second Floor** - Conference Hall, Mini Hall and 11 rooms.

**Third Floor** - Multipurpose Hall and eight rooms.

#### **SOOD SANDESH & WEBSITE**

**[www.soodsabhachandigarh.org](http://www.soodsabhachandigarh.org)**

Effective communication is essential for the successful functioning of an Organization. Keeping this in mind, website was launched in July 2004, which has helped the Sabha to reach out to the Sood families residing in all corners of the globe. Matrimonial Section has been appreciated for providing much desired assistance

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to find suitable matches. The information provided on the website has not only strengthened the biradari system but the glorious history of the community has been made available to the younger generation who look to the internet for knowledge about their ancestors. Now all books relating to the history of our community are also available on the website.

Quarterly magazine **SOOD SANDESH** which is a mirror to reflect its activities is also being published regularly. While Sh. Surinder Sood edited the magazine for almost two decades, presently an Editorial Board has been constituted consisting of :

Editor	Ms. Kamini Goel
Members	Sh. Kuldip Rai Sood, Sh. Ashwani Doegar. Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud. Sh. Rajinder Sood

#### **RENOVATION AND UPLIFTMENT OF BHAWANS**

Bhawans were constructed more than two decades ago when limitations of finances restrained the Construction Committee to go beyond the available means. The Bhawans now required renovation and upliftment. A Committee consisting of Sh. Brij Sood, former President, Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud, Vice President, Sh. Umesh Sood, Finance Secretary and Sh. Rajinder Sood, Secretary Sh. P.C. Sood was constituted to undertake renovation work.

- (1) Air Conditioners have been installed at Multipurpose Halls and Rooms
- (2) LCD TVs have been installed in all the rooms.
- (3) Common Toilets have been fully revamped.
- (4) Old tiles have been replaced with granite/marble.
- (5) At both the Bhawans mini halls have been converted into Conference Halls

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- (6) Lifts have been provided at both the Bhawans
- (7) To supplement supply of electricity, Generator Sets have been installed.

### **SOOD YUVA MANCH**

The greatest wealth and strength of any community are its youth. The future lies in their hands. It is a fact that time and tides wait for none. Those who are the flag bearers today will have to pass on the reins to the next generation. Therefore, it is essential that the energy of the youth should be harnessed and guided properly at a right time so that they are ready to shoulder the responsibility when the need arises. Keeping these facts in mind, in the year 2010, the Sabha formed Sood Yuva Manch with Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sud, Vice President as its Co-ordinator who has laboured hard to groom the youth of the community. It is heartening that the response has been quite encouraging and 35 youngsters have been enrolled as members who meet every month. Two Blood Donation Camps have been successfully organized by them and they are involved in every activity of the Sabha. There is no doubt, in the times to come, Sood Yuva Manch will play an important role to take the Sabha to newer heights of glory.

### **TRIBUTES**

*The Sabha cannot forget the contribution of those senior members who guided its destiny during the crucial period, but are no more with us. They laid the foundation of the Sabha, nurtured it with dedication and left indelible marks. They will remain role model for all times to come. The Sabha pays tributes to these stalwarts: Sarvshri Madan Mohan Sood, Jagdish Ram Doegar, Bhag Mal Sood, Des Raj Kashyap, Harish Sood, Dharam Inder Sood, Kishore Chand Mehdoodia, Lt.Col. Sham Lal Sood.*

*We also pay our tributes to all those members who remained associated with the Sabha at one time or the other and today they are*

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*not with us. For them service to the community through the platform of the Sabha was the mission of their life.*

They have also served the Sabha with dedication during their life time :-

Sh. Mansha Ram Sood	Vice President
Sh. Roshan Lal Sood	Vice President
Sh. P.D. Kashyap	Vice President
Sh. Babu Ram Sood of Manimajra	Member
Sh. Balbir Sagar Sood	(Editor, Sood Sandesh)
Sh. Vijay Kumar Sood	(Editor, Sood Sandesh)
Sh. Pyare Lal Sood	(Finance Secretary)
Sh. Dharam Pal Sood	(Finance Secretary)
Sh. Jagan Nath Sood	(Member EC )
Sh. Kanwar Lal Sood	(Member EC)
Sh. Ved Parkash Sood	(Member EC)
Sh. Puran Chand Sood	(Member EC)
Sh. T.R. Dhup	(Member EC)
Prof. P.C. Sood	(Member EC)
Sh. Hans Raj Sood	(Member EC)

*The Sabha continues its onward journey with the blessings of these noble souls.*

## **CONCLUSION**

Fortunately, the Sood Sabha has been able to get very strenuous, untiring selfless leadership. Their devotion and dedication has brought laurels not only to the Sabha but to the entire biradri. From the simple Annual Melas, the Sabha has come a long way and has added many feathers to its cap. It is heartening that there exists very cordial atmosphere. It has its well organized system and constitution. Infact, the Sabha has developed a culture of its own. The elections are always unanimous with one or two exceptions, and the inbuilt strength

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of the Sabha has stood the test of the time. The Sood Sabha is alive to the needs of the community. It will continue to grow and move forward in the service to the society.

**Every once in a while, a wish comes wrapped in absolute belief and conviction. When that happens, nothing can stop it from becoming true. This is the story of one such wish.**

An urdu couplet aptly sums up the progress made by the Sabha in its journey which is spread over 50 years :

में तो अकेला ही चला था जानिबें मजिल  
लोग मिलते गए, कारवाँ बनता गया।



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## **SARVDESHIK SOOD SABHA**

— **Bipan Chand Sood**  
President,  
Sarvdeshtk Sood Sabha

History of Sarvdeshtk Sood Sabha is more than 125 years old which strengthens our belief that Sood Community always functioned as a close-knit large family. Sarvdeshtk Sood Sabha consisted of eminent personalities and philanthropists who were respected by the whole community and yielded great influence in the entire biradari. In the annual Conferences, delegates from different Sood Sabhas from all over the country participated to discuss various issues concerning the welfare of the community and set guidelines and norms so that the community remains free from all undesirable social customs and initiate such steps which strengthen the bonds of brother-hood. Resolutions were adopted against social evils like sati pratha, dowry system and to make marriage a simple affair. Sood Biradari as a whole generally followed the rules set at these Conferences. Prominent Soods who did exemplary social work for the Society were honoured so that others too get inspired. The main objectives was to consolidate the Biradari. Though our community was small, yet it acquired a distinctive place in the society which is being preserved till date.

At regular intervals conferences were held at different places at the invitation of the local Sood Sabha and prominent personalities presided over these conferences (page 57).

Sarvdeshtk Sood Sabha used to publish monthly/quarterly news letters to maintain communication with different Sood Sabhas and also with the community. These Newsletters were very popular. Some of these were:

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**SOOD SAMACHAR** - Published from Amritsar - Editor Sh. Dharam Chand Sood.

**SOOD HITESHI** - Editor Sh. Faqir Chand Sood of Ferozepur.

**SOOD SANSAR** - Published from Ludhiana. Editor Sh. Telu Ram Mohindra

**Sood World** - Published by Sood Sabha, U.K.

Sood Sabha Chandigarh, ever since its inception, has played significant role in Biradari activities. All India Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha Sammelan was held at Chandigarh in 1972 when Justice Tek Chand Sood took over as its President. Shri D.R. Kashyap, Vice President Sood Sabha Chandigarh became General Secretary. In the Conference held at Ambala in 1985, Shri Brahm Datt Sood became President and Shri Harish Sood, General Secretary. Quarterly meetings at different places viz Kandaghat, Ambala City, Chandigarh and Pinjore were held. At a meeting held at Kandaghat, the following members of the Biradari were honoured and mementoes were presented to them for undertaking various social activities to boost the image of Sood Biradari:

- (1) Shri Amar Chand Sood, prominent Advocate of Shimla.
- (2) Shri Jai Lai Sood, Sr. Advocate, Kandaghat.
- (3) Shri Bishamber Dass Sood of Solan.
- (4) Smt. Ram Piari Sood of Morendeh (H.P.)

*Constitution of Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha was published in Sood Sandesh ( Vol. 18, Nov., 1986 )*

At the invitation of Sood Sabha, Shimla, a meeting of the Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha was held at **Ram Mandir, Shimla** on 20th June, 2004. Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, President presided over the meeting. Octogenarian Lala Amar Chand Sood was the Chief Guest. The meeting was attended by the Office Bearers of the following Sood Sabhas:



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- Sh. Som Datt Sood, Secretary, Sh. S.R. Sood, Treasurer. Sood Sabha, Amritsar.
  - Sh. Avinash Sood, President, Sood Sabha, Ambala.
  - Sh. Krishan Kant Sood, President, Sh. Arvind Sood, General Secretary, Sood Sabha, Hoshiarpur.
  - Sh. Sh. D.C. Sud, IFS, Sood Sabha, Jaipur.
  - Sh. B.K. Sood, President, Sh. Rajiv Sood, Secretary, Sood Sabha, Phagwara.
  - Sh. Sunil Sood, President Sh. Naresh Sood, Secretary, Sood Sabha, Solan.
  - Sh. Sumesh Sood, President, Sood Sabha, Parwanoo.
  - Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, President, Sh. Surinder Sood, General Secretary, Sood Sabha, Chandigarh alongwith Sarvshri B.K. Sood, Brij Sood, Hari Om Sood and Umesh Sood.
  - **Hosts** - Sood Sabha, Shimla - All the office bearers and members of the Executive Committee were present which included Shri Kapil Dev Sood, former President, Sh. Vishwa Nath Sood, Secretary, Sh. Vijay Kuthiala, Sh. Vijay Bhagra, Sh. Desh Bandhu Sood and other members of the Executive Committee.

Various issues were discussed in the meeting. An important decision was taken to collect funds for rendering financial help to those who are suffering from any serious ailments and cannot meet with the expenses of costly treatment. It is a matter of appreciation that Rs. 60,000/- were collected on the spot.

We are glad that in the recent times, Sood Sabhas have been revived at Dharamsala, Malerkotla, Solan and Amritsar. Sood Melas were held at Ludhiana (Jan., 1993); Phagwara, Parwanoo, Patiala, Solan and Ambala in which large number of Sood families

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participated. It became possible due to the efforts of some enthusiastic members for whom concept of biradari system was close at heart.

It is quite appreciable that Sood Melas are being regularly organized at **Chandigarh, Shimla and Hoshiarpur**. It is apparent that where-ever Sood Sabha has acquired land and constructed Sood Bhawan/Dharamsala, they are doing exceedingly well. Thus, **Sood Bhawans at Chandigarh and Panchkula, Ram Mandir at Shimla and Sood Dharamshala (under construction) at Hoshiarpur have become pride for the entire biradari.**

**Sood Sabha at Delhi** has been very active. However, unfortunately after the passing away of some of the leading members viz. Dr. Shadi Ram Sood, Prof. P.C. Sood, Sh. Ram Rattan Sood and others, it has become inactive. Sood Jewellers of Karol Bagh have been organizing annual Sood Mela and also published magazine but nothing much is heard now.

For some years, **Sood Sabha, Bombay** (now Mumbai) was also very active. But after the death of Shri Ratan Lal Sood, the Sabha became inactive. Shri Mohinder Sood and Shri Kuldip Sood, prominent Sound Recordist did try to revive the Sabha but their efforts evoked limited response.

#### **SOOD SABHA OVERSEAS**

Earlier Sood Association (UK) was very active. There was a duly elected Committee. Prominent members were Sh. Des Raj Bowry, Sh. Baldev Kumar Mohindra, Sh. Baljit S. Sood, Sh. Navjivan Kumar Sood and others. Newsletter 'SOOD WORLD' was regularly published and annual functions were also held. There are a large number of Sood families settled in London, Nottingham, Leicester and other cities. There were about 200 life Members (Sood World - June, 1995). Now the younger generation is more influenced by the western culture but the concept of biradari system remains, though it is fading.

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**Mrs. Manjula Sood** was Britain's first Asian Woman Lord Mayor of Leister. She belongs to Ludhiana.

**Dr. Bhushan Sood** took a lead in organizing Sood Sabha at Canada-America. He has also compiled directory of Soods residing abroad and has also launched a website.

No doubt in the recent times, due to break down of the joint family system, open economy and globalisation there has been perceptible change in the society. Biradari system has also come under pressure. In economy driven growing Society such developments are natural. Basically man's inherent desire is to remain a part of the social order which provides him emotional security, peace and solace. He also seeks recognition in the society. There is another problem in the Society. In their old age, elders are feeling insecure and ignored. This problem needs to be addressed seriously. Such broad issues can be best addressed by forming Sood Sabhas and strengthening the biradari system.

Therefore, let us make efforts to form Sood Sabhas in all cities and towns. It will not only bring the members closer but will provide a platform for rendering service to the Society. Even in small towns where the number of sood families is small, if they come closer and form a Sabha and start doing social work, they will get recognition in the area.



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## **SARVDESHIK SOOD SABHA**

### **Roll of Honour**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>President</b>
1881	Ludhiana	
1882	Lahore	R.B. Lala Mohan Lal M.L.C., Garli
1911	Garli	
1912	Pragpur	
1914	Jawala Mukhi	Hon'ble Justice Sir Jai Lal Sood
1919	Ludhiana	Lala Duni Chand Ambalvi
1924	Lahore	R.B. Lala Mohan Lal
1928	Jalandhar	Shri Atam Sarup Beri, Patiala
1929	Moga	R.S. Lala Mushtaq Rai, Jalandhar
1930	Hoshiarpur	R.B. Lala Jodha Mal Kuthiala
1932	Jalandhar	R.S. Lala Radha Krishan, Amritsar
1933	Amritsar	Lala Milkhi Ram, Advocate
1935	Shimla	R.S. Ch. Ganpat Rai, Moga
1938	Amritsar	Lala Milkhi Ram Advocate, Hoshiarpur
1941	Palampur	Lala Mela Ram Sood, Shimla
1943	Amritsar	Lala Mangat Rai Kuthiala, Hoshiarpur
1946	Shimla	Seth Sulakhan Singh Sood, Amritsar
1950	Phagwara	Lala Amolak Ram Advocate Moga
1957	Ludhiana	Lala Amar Nath Beri, Ludhiana
1962	Amritsar	Seth Sulakhan Singh Sood, Amritsar
1966	Hoshiarpur	Lala Kidar Nath Bourie Ludhiana
1972	Chandigarh	Hon'ble Justice Tek Chand
1985	Ambala	Sh. Brahm Datt Sood
2004	Shimla	Sh. Bipan Chand Sood

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## THE SOODS AND THE SOCIETY

— Late Justice Tek Chand

There is pronounced tendency on the part of individuals, groups and even communities to approach rights and duties differently. By and large, we are prone to be the claim conscious, but obligation-oblivious. Right demanding, but duty denying, is too common though commonly improper. There is a French phrase noblesse oblige indicating that the higher the social status, the heavier the burden of obligations.

It is gratifying that our community is alive to its responsibilities. Soods are equally known as a class for their higher sense of self-respect, responsibility and determination to discharge their duties. This noble and general trait has to be maintained from generation to generation.

As members of the Sood community we are known to maintain a high standard of ethics. The instances of unsocial misdeeds such as fraud, breach of trust, graft and other forms of corruption are comparatively rare in comparison to other communities.

When it comes to commission of violent crimes such as murders, grievous assaults, robberies, burglaries, embezzlements, bank frauds, rapes and other offences like dowry deaths involving grave moral turpitude and depravity, we are nowhere in the line. We are hardly ever represented in the prison population. Certain other communities can claim top precedence in the anti-social conduct, but we can proudly say that we top from the tail, either when judged on pro rata basis or when counted by numbers. This is the negative social side in which we happily count nowhere.

There is also the positive approach of high achievements.

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Soods are known for philanthropy and benevolence; they are inclined to be generous and bountiful and are more helpful to the weaker sections among them, when speaking comparatively. Socially and individually, they denigrate what is despicable and degrading. I dare not boast in superlative terms, as no community has attained complete freedom from anit-social behaviour, or, that we have achieved perfection. It will, however, not be deemed vain-glorious to assert that our share is minimal and our contribution to crime is negligible, if not nil.

Soods by their enterprise in business and industry, in the fields of higher learning, in honourable and learned professions of law, medicine, engineering, teaching, journalism etc. and in administrative services, in the defense services, have found places of honour and distinction.

In seeking and securing freedom for the nation and in building up solidarity, the earlier generation of Sood elders has given abundant proof by their services and sacrifices. The sood young men of today are rendering meritorious service among the armed forces of the country. May I close by an invocation to God and a supplication to my community.

Soods, stay as spearheads of the society with loving loyalty to the home which is fear-free, temptation-free, and which is not a marketable commodity.



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## "SOOD RATAN" GALAXY

### **Sh. Harish Sood (1989)**

He was the General Secretary of the Sabha from 1983 to 1989. Dynamic and visionary, he nurtured the idea that the Sabha should have its own Bhawan and worked hard to fulfill this dream. He was also the Secretary of Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha and will always be remembered for his services to the Biradari. His untimely death on July 20, 1989 left a deep void.

### **Sh. Dharaminder Sood (1990)**

He served Sood Sabha with great devotion. He was the General Secretary from 1977 to 1982 and elevated as its President in 1986. He was also the Vice President of Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha and Vice Chairman of Sood Sewa Bhawan Trust. On 9th Nov., 1988 he left this mortal world.

### **Sh. Brahm Dutt Sood (1991)**

The leading light of Sood Biradari who was associated with Sarvadeshik Sood Sabha for over four decades and became its President in 1985. He was a staunch Arya Samaji and worked hard for eradication of social evils. He took keen interest in the activities of Sood Sabha, Chandigarh.

### **Sh. Mela Ram Sood (1992)**

An eminent and distinguished personality of Shimla. He remained associated with a number of social and welfare organizations. Sh. Mela Ram Ji worked in close association with R.B. Mohan Lal in



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completing various social projects like Garli Hospital, Sarai, Waterworks Scheme and also constructed Sood Anglo Sanskrit High School at Garli. Took keen interest in the independence movement and was well known to great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajender Prasad and other eminent personalities.

**Dr. Des Raj Bowry (1993)**

Founder Member and Honorary Chairman of Sood Association, London. He also donated liberally to various social organizations. For a number of years organized Eye Camps in his native village in Punjab. He took keen interest in the activities of Sood Sabha, Chandigarh and was made Chief Patron.

**Dr. Mukand Lal Sood (1994)**

Philanthropist and distinguished Physician, Dr. Mukand Lal Sood, born at Vill: Ambota (Distt. Una) was a great humanist. He retired from Ripon Hospital Shimla in 1963 and dedicated his life to serve the Society. He donated liberally to various Institutions including Sood Sabha, Chandigarh for the construction of a Multipurpose Hall at Sood Bhawan, Panchkula.

**Sh. Bishamber Lal Sood (1995)**

A well known philanthropist, Shri Bishamber Lal Sood of Delhi was founder member of Charitable Trust established in the memory of his only daughter Dr. Madhu Sood who died at the young age of 27. Through this Trust, Sh. Bishamber Lal Sood started welfare activities to help the poor and widows. Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood (1996)

Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood will always be remembered by the Sood biradari for his social activities. He was associated with several social organizations viz. Vishwa Hindu Parishad, IMA and was also the President of Managing Committee of SD High School, Amb. He donated liberally to various organizations including Sood Sabha, Chandigarh.

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**Sh. Madan Mohan Sood (1997)**

Sh. Madan Mohan Sood took initiative to form Sood Sabha, Chndigarh in 1958 and remained its General Secretary till 1976. A visionary, prolific writer and impressive orator, he was the author of ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF SOODS which was published by Sood Sabha, Chandigarh. The book is widely referred to while debating the origin of the Community.

**Sh. Bhag Mal Sood (1998)**

He will always be remembered for his devotion and dedicated services rendered to Sood Sabha, Chandigarh. Sh. Bhag Mal Sood served the Sabha in various capacities and remained Vice President for several years. In 1984 he was elevated as President. When the Sabha decided to construct Sood Bhawan at Chandigarh, he not only actively supported the idea but also helped in collecting funds for this Project. He left this mortal world on Jan. 26, 1986.

**Sh. Des Raj Kashyap (2000)**

One of the founder members of Sood Sabha, Chandigarh, Shri Des Raj Kashyap remained associated with the Sabha till he breathed his last on Jan.6, 2005. He was the Advisor and the Chief Patron of the Sabha. He was also associated with Sarvdeshik Sood Sabha as General Secretary.

**Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar (2001)**

He was one of the founder members of Sood Sabha; remained its President from 1977 to 1983 and then elevated as the Patron. He was also the General Secretary of Sarvdeshik Sood Sabha. He regularly gave financial assistance to the poor students and widows. An epitome of love, kindness and generosity, he served the biradari through out his life. He left this mortal world on Sept.28, 1990.

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**Sh. Manohar Lal Mohindra (2002)**

Born at Vill : Jodhpur near Barnala (Pb.), Sh. Manohar Lal Mohindra settled in Assam where he owned several Tea gardens. He gave financial help to the poor students and widows and also sent donations to Sood Sabha Chandigarh for several projects. He believed that he was a humble servant of the Almighty and only followed HIS orders. A noble soul indeed.

**Sh. Jishan Lal Kuthiala (2003)**

A prominent member of the biradari and son of renowned philanthropist Rai Bahadur Jodha Mal Kuthiala, Shri Jishan Lal Kuthiala continued to serve the society, following the rich traditions set by his forefathers. He was also associated with several social organizations which were involved in charitable activities.

**Lala Amar Chand Sood (2004)**

He was an eminent member of the Biradari; one of the founder members of Sood Sabha, Shimla and was its PATRON. He was a well known Advocate at High Court and for a number of years remained President of Bar Association, Himachal Pradesh. He took active part in independence movement. Also honoured by Himachal Govt. for his meritorious services. He was also associated with several religious and social organizations.

**Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry (2005)**

Born at Nairobi (East Africa), Shri Bowry settled at Bangalore and started his business there. He is associated with many social organizations and regularly donated for charitable activities. When Sood Sabha, Chandigarh decided to open a Charitable Diagnostic Laboratory at Sood Bhawan he motivated the Sabha to start this noble Project and made liberal donation for the project. He is a true Arya Samaji and maintains low profile.

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**Sh. Manohar Lal Mohindra (2002)**

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A prominent member of the biradari and son of renowned philanthropist Rai Bahadur Jodha Mal Kuthiala, Shri Jishan Lal Kuthiala continued to serve the society, following the rich traditions set by his forefathers. He was also associated with several social organizations which were involved in charitable activities.

**Lala Amar Chand Sood (2004)**

He was an eminent member of the Biradari; one of the founder members of Sood Sabha, Shimla and was its PATRON. He was a well known Advocate at High Court and for a number of years remained President of Bar Association, Himachal Pradesh. He took active part in independence movement. Also honoured by Himachal Govt. for his meritorious services. He was also associated with several religious and social organizations.

**Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry (2005)**

Born at Nairobi (East Africa), Shri Bowry settled at Bangalore and started his business there. He is associated with many social organizations and regularly donated for charitable activities. When Sood Sabha, Chandigarh decided to open a Charitable Diagnostic Laboratory at Sood Bhawan he motivated the Sabha to start this noble Project and made liberal donation for the project. He is a true Arya Samaji and maintains low profile.

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**Sh. Hardyal Doegar (2006)**

A well known philanthropist, Sh. Hardyal Doegar belongs to the prominent Doegar Family of Himachal Pradesh. Though settled in Delhi, he took keen interest in the activities of Sood Sabha Chandigarh and donated regularly for helping poor students and the widows. He was also associated with several social and charitable organizations.

**Dr. Bhushan Sood (2007)**

Dr. Bhushan Sood was a Dental Surgeon at Panchkula before going to Canada. He takes keen interest in biradari activities and has set up a chapter of the Sood community in North America titled "Sood Sabha of North America." He is associated with many professional and social organizations based at Mississauga, Canada.



**PROMINENT PERSONALITIES AS CHIEF GUEST AT  
SOOD MILAN MELA (1988-2012)**

Annual Mela	Held on	Chief Guest
29th	07-02-1988	Mrs. Sudarshan Mayor
30th	26-02-1989	Sh. Hanuwant Dass Sood
31st	28-01-1990	Dr. Piyare Lal Sood
32nd	10-02-1991	Sh. Harish Chander Sood
33rd	16-02-1992	Dr. Mukand Lal Sood
34th	13-02-1994	Sh. Hanuwant Dass Sood
35th	12-02-1995	Sh. Amar Chand Sood, Sr. Advocate, Shimla
36th	25-02-1996	Sh. D.C. Sood, I.F.S.
37th	26-04-1998	Sh. Brij Bihari Lal Butail, M.L.A. (H.P.)
38th	13-02-2000	Sh. Hardyal Kuthiala
39th	04-02-2001	Sh. Kapil Dev Sood, Advocate
40th	03-02-2002	Hon'ble Justice N.K. Sood
41st	23-02-2003	Dr. (Maj. Gen.) V.K. Sood
42nd	15-02-2004	Sh. Hardyal Doegar
43rd	13-02-2005	Sh. Tikshan Sood, M.L.A. (Punjab)
44th	12-02-2006	Mrs. Shobha Koser
45th	04-02-2007	Mrs. Kanta Swaroop Krishan (Padam Shri)
46th	16-11-2008	Sh. Kuldip Sood (Sound Recordist-Film Industry)
47th	16-11-2009	Mr. Brahm Mohindra, M.L.A. (Punjab)
48th	14.11-2010	Mrs. Bimla Sood Kashyap, Member Parliament
49th	18-12-2011	Sh. Krishan Kant Sood, President Sood Sabha, Hoshiarpur
50th	18-11-2012	Sh. S.K. Sood, I.A.S. (Retd.)

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**BENEVOLENT DONORS**  
**FOR HALLS, MINI HALLS & ROOMS**  
**SOOD BHAWAN, CHANDIGARH**

**Our Generous Founder Donors**

- ★ Dr. Kirpa Ram Sood, Shimla
- ★ Sh. Manohar Lal Sood, Assam
- ★ Sh. Jishan Lal Kuthiala, Yamuna Nagar

**For Multipurpose Halls**

- ★ Sh. Hanwant Dass Sood, Shimla
- ★ Dr. Shanta Sood, Hoshiarpur

**For Mini Halls**

- ★ Madhu Sood Charitable Trust, Delhi
- ★ Sh Prem Sood, Devinder Sood &  
Mr Kamal Sood, Canada
- ★ Sh. Varinder Sood, Sh. Prem Sood, USA
- ★ Sh. Om Parkash Sood, Hoshiarpur
- ★ Lt. Col. S.L. Sud, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Rajan Mayor, Jalandhar

**For Master Rooms HSmt. Sushila Doegar, Chandigarh**

- ★ Smt. & Sh. Puran Chand Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Smt. Anita Sood/Smt Anila Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Tara Chand Sood, Shimla
- ★ Smt. Sukarma Sood  
wife of Sh. Yogesh Sood, The Myth, Shimla



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**For Rooms**

- ★ Sh. Des Raj Bowry - London
- ★ Smt. Sulakshana Kumari  
wife of Sh. Desraj Bowry - London
- ★ Smt. Usha Choudhry & Mrs Lata Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Smt. Indo Devi wife of Late Sh. Babu Ram Banta (Fagu),  
Chhota Shimla H Smt. Kiran Sud & Mr Shashi Bhushan Sud,  
Chandigarh
- ★ Smt. & Mr. Kishore Chand Sood (Mehdoodia), Panchkula
- ★ Sh Baldev & Mrs Santosh Mohindra, London
- ★ Smt. Kaushalya Devi Sood,  
Rampur / Dilwari (H.P)
- ★ Sh. Jai Ram Sud, Shimla / Jawalamukhi
- ★ Sh. Ram Krishan Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Amar Chand Sood, Chhaujhar, Paragpur,  
Naritha (H.P.)
- ★ Sh. V.K. Sood, Panchkula
- ★ Dr. Pran Nath Sood, U.S.A.
- ★ Smt. Nirmala Devi & Mr. Shashi Bhushan  
Mithoo, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Hari Om Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Er. Gopal Sood. Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Ram Gopal Karol, Shimla
- ★ Sh. Jatinder Lal Kashyap, Shimla
- ★ Sh. Atul Chander Sood, Garli (H.P)

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- ★ Smt Amri Devi Sood  
wife of Late Sh. Sukhmi Chand Sood  
(Karol) Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Kamla Sood, Shimla  
wife of Late Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Sh. Vinay Sood, Delhi
  - ★ M/s Bhagmal Bipan Chand Sood & Sons, Chandigarh
  - ★ Smt. Shyama Sood  
wife of Late Sh. Dharam Inder Sood, Chandigarh
  - H Sh. Jagdish Ram Doegar, Chandigarh
  - H Smt. Sheelawanti wife of Late Sh. Harcharan Das Sud,  
Chandigarh
  - H Sh. Suresh Chand Sood  
son of Late Sh. Mansha Ram Sood, Surat
  - H Sh. Anup Sood, The Myth, Shimla



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**DONATIONS FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS  
AT CHANDIGARH & PANCHKULA**

- ★ Sh. Kulbhushan Bowry & Family, Banglore
- ★ Sh. Manohar Lal Sood, Assam
- ★ Sh. Pran Nath Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Smt. Kanta Sood & Smt. Kamla Sood  
daughters of Late Sh Gurcharan Dass Sood, Sohana
- ★ Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, Panchkula
- ★ Sh. Madan Lal Langah, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. V.K. Sood, Panchkula
- ★ Smt. Suresh Sood  
wife of Late Sh. Dharam Parkash Sood, Mohali
- ★ Smt. Kamla Sood  
wife of Late Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, Shimla
- ★ Smt. Shakuntla Kashyap, Chandigarh

**DONATION FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION  
OF FOURTH FLOOR AT SOOD BHAWAN,  
CHANDIGARH**

- ★ Sh. Devinder Sood, Canada (Part Payment for Mini Hall)

**For Rooms**

- ★ Smt. Sneha Lata Sood wife of Sh. Suresh Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Smt. Kamla Sood wife of Late Sh. Bipan Chand Sood,  
Cliffend Estate, Shimla
- ★ Smt. Urmilla Sood wife of Late Sh. Nanak Chand Sood,  
Noida
- ★ Smt. Pavana Sood wife of Late Sh. Om Parkash Sood, New  
Delhi

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**DONORS**  
**FOR HALLS, MINI HALLS & ROOMS**  
**SOOD BHAWAN - PANCHKULA**

**For Multipurpose Halls**

- ★ Sh. Mukand Lal Sood, Shimla
- ★ Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, Chandigarh

**For Mini Halls**

- ★ Sh. Kishore Chand Sood (Mehdoodia), Panchkula
- ★ Sh. Bishamber Lal, Delhi

**For Rooms**

- ★ Dr. Vidhya Nidhi Sood, Panchkula
- ★ Smt Beasa Devi Sood, Kalka.
- ★ Sh. Kulwant Rai Sood, Panchkula
- ★ Sh. Vivek Sood, NOIDA
- ★ Smt. Bhama Devi Sood, Jawalamukhi
- ★ Sh. Sudarshan Sud, Panchkula
- ★ Sh. Om Dutt Sood, Kasauli
- ★ Smt Satyawati Sood, Kalka
- ★ Sh. Kapil Kumar Goel &  
Smt. Kamini Goel, Panchkula
- ★ Smt. Urmila Doegar Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Madan Mohan Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Er. Atul Chander Sood, Chandigarh
- ★ Sh. Tara Chand Sood, Shimla
- ★ Smt. Indo Devi wife of  
Late Sh. Babu Ram Banta (Fagu), Chhota Shimla
- ★ Smt Raj Rani Sood, Chandigarh

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- ★ Sh. Bal Krishan Sood, Panchkula
  - ★ M/s Kishori Lal, Rajinder Kumar Sood, Kalka
  - ★ Dr. Krishan Kant Sud, Panchkula
  - ★ Sh. Baldev Raj Sood, N. Delhi.
  - ★ Smt. Shyama & Prof. Vasdev Kuthiala, Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Kamla Sood (Banta),  
wife of Late Sh. Bipan Chand Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Sukarma Sood wife of  
Late Sh. Yogesh Sood, The Myth, Shimla
  - ★ Smt Sudarshan Kumari Sood, Panchkula
  - ★ Smt. Om Wati Sood, Panchkula
  - ★ Smt. Krishana Wati Sood, Panchkula
  - ★ Smt. Sharda Sood wife of  
Sh. Mansha Ram Sood, Chandigarh
  - ★ Sh. Rival Chand Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Uma Devi Sood, Mohali
  - ★ Smt. Ved Wati Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Sh. Suresh Chander Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Sh. Anil Sud, London
  - ★ Sh. Ved Parkash Sood, Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Krishana Sood (Mithoo), Shimla
  - ★ Smt. Krishana Sood, Dehra Chotta Shimla



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### LIST OF GOTRAS

1. Dosaj	37. Dhaunchak	71. Dorela
2. Phakka	38. Dauli	72. Bhagra
3. Phassi	39. Gondal	73. Udhwal
4. Bourie	40. Sanwal	74. Kutharia
5. Teji	41. Jandpaul	75. Jallundhroo
6. Sulhan	42. Rudher	76. Didi
7. Balagan	43. Paul	77. Kalandar
8. Beri	44. Dhoop	78. Patopa
9. Varanwal	45. Rara	79. Bhagla
10. Gopal	46. Udher	80. Bisohal
11. Ugal12.Law	47. Gajja	81. Mithoo
13. Makaura	48. Bhola	82. Jhangra
14. Tagala	49. Pharwaha	83. Bisolia
15. Kajla	50. Brahmi	84. Indoria
16. Behal	51. Mandal	85. Kandol
17. Dhanda	52. Mahiyer	86. Langa
18. Dhalli	53. Karol	87. Chamohia
19. Gajri20.Jari	54. Banta	88. Salhooria
21. Mahidhar	55. Takarlo	89. Jaiswal
22. Dhiri	56. Mehdoodia	90. Bajwaria
23. Moman	57. Lauriya	91. Mangwalich
24. Baddhu	58. Pabba	92. Sawalia
25. Poora	59. Dopal	93. Jandranglu
26. Mohni	60. Cheemra	94. Lahasparr
27. Nehra	61. Chakahria	95. Saha
28. Bharak	62. Chauhalia	96. Masoob
29. Vassan	63. Chaujhar	97. Mehta
30. Rohri	64. Jhalya	98. Lasaria
31. Bodhi	65. Kuthiala	99. Chaudhri
32. Dhookhi	66. Dogar	100. Dagan
33. Bhokaha	67. Masand	101. Lama
34. Mukandi	68. Pulkaha	102. Harail
35. Nandu	69. Mariya	103. Jhilgat
36. Dadan	70. Chhabb	104. Lakhauta