

# THE MID TOWNER



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Club No. 15228

## PROGRAMME

Vol. XXXIII No.42, April 15, 2009

"Hair & Body Care"  
Guest Speaker : Mr. Pramod Dewan  
Managing Director, Headmaster, Chandigarh

Please note the change  
to Summer Timing

Friday, April 17, 2009

Time: 7.00. PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## "Look Beyond the Parish Pump !"



Many of you must have observed wondrously a fruit-bearing tree in full bloom. Though its trunk remains erect, the branches bough down. A man of science explains it through gravitational laws. An artist longingly looks at its beauty and translates it into an art form. The philosopher however, explains this as natural humility.

That is the aura that our Honored Guest, Rotary International President Elect John Kenny exuded.

And why not? As a man of deep spirituality, a Presbyterian Elder, he is considered 'just, fair, temperate, sober, patient, prudent, an able teacher, respectable, and above all, a blameless steward of God', just as described in the Bible. That is how an elder is regarded in Christianity. After all, Elders are specially commissioned non-clergy who take part in pastoral care and decision making at all levels - a great responsibility.

He has in him, as PRIP Raja described, a streak of child-like innocence.

Add all this together, and you have a sagaciously innocent man with practical wisdom. No wonder, he has enunciated a practical theme for his year of presidency.

To welcome and meet such a personality, a special Intercity was organized and hosted by our Club on Saturday, April, 11, with IPDG Shaju Peter as the Visit Coordinator and PP Ajit Gulati as

the Event Chair.

Speaking crisply on the occasion, following a detailed introduction by PRIP Rajendra Saboo, John Kenny spoke of his village childhood, and his magical exposure to the world 'beyond the parish pump' through letters and discussion with his father and uncle. This, he said, was the beginning of his life's eventful journey. Rotary opened tremendous possibilities of acts of goodness with confidence, sincerity and passion. This chain continues over the years. He shared issues that need to be nailed immediately - Water, for example, is critical. Its shortage could create wars. Heath, and Hunger, were priorities on his list. Increasing literacy, particularly among the girl-child is an important priority. Rotary, he said, was working single-mindedly towards eradicating Polio. It was challenging to raise funds to meet the world's needs. All these, he said, will give the world a brighter and better tomorrow, and a stronger future. "The important thing in a million-mile journey", he said, "was not the journey itself, but the first step". DGE Chetan Aggarwal proposed the formal vote of thanks.

Planning for the Event began a month ago. The efforts of each of the Committee Chair and their Members were not without hiccups. Yet the excellent effort of each was instrumental in making the event successful. In fact, if we are go by the comments of the participants and RI Officers present, the event was outstanding.

The ambience of the Venue at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research made it so. Thanks are due to PP Subhash Bindra & courtesy of Dr. Rama Rao, Director and Dr. K.K. Bhutani, Dean. He was also responsible for the excellent catering, which added value to the Club's hospitality index. The Madras Regiment Bagpipers, brought in to create a Scottish ambience to welcome the Chief Guest, was courtesy of Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon. John was so impressed, that he was forced to confess 'feeling at home' in a far off land. The



Bhangra team who escorted him to the auditorium was a happy smiling lot, adding colour. Thanks are due to PP Ajit Gulati for this.

The attendance was great. The recognition for this goes in its entirety to PP Dr. Vanita Gupta, who in spite of her Faculty commitments elsewhere, visited neighboring Club's, aided by PP B.L. Ramsisaria & PP Ajit Gulati. It was a co-incidence that the PETS and SETS were being held concurrently in Chandigarh adding to attendance. Thanks are due to DGE Chetan Aggarwal for motivating Presidents and Secretaries Elect to attend. After all, it must have been a rare and thrilling experience to meet their President!

If you were a participant, you must have observed the world class logistics on stage, as well as the refreshment area. We are aware, that PE Prem Anand was at the venue since 10 am that

morning to co-ordinate each physical arrangement; PP Sandeep Luthra of Chandigarh Shivalik single-handedly created and executed the Power Point Back drop; PP Charanjit Singh of Chandigarh, who has recently been inducted in the Public Relations Council of India "Hall of Fame", coordinated not only the banners on and off stage, but also handled the media meticulously; and SE Ritu Singal who took care of the stage decoration. PP Harish Sethi co-ordinated the effort to obtain the British Flag and the Anthem, which was sung by the students of Delhi Public School.

The toughest activity was the registration. Thanks are due to PP V.J.S. Vohra, who became a grand-father to twin grand-daughters, the very next day early morning, Deepak Sood, Sompal Mallik, and the level-headed Amarjit Singh, who in spite of daily last moment flaps, took on the mighty challenge,



**PP Rtn. TS. Anand**

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and executed it to perfection. They literally burnt the midnight oil.

Lovy Peter, Kanan Dewan, Bir Gulati, and Malabika Sengupta were the grace of the reception committee. .

Our Bulletin was greatly appreciated by the Chief Guest. Thanks are in order to Editor Ashish Ahuja and PP Indrajeet Sengupta who wrote the lead article.

Each of the coordination meetings was held in Hotel Rio, courtesy of VP Atul Grover. Thanks are due to him, as well as

President Saroj Jhawar, who cajoled him. Her gracious presence on stage was an asset.

According to British protocol, the most important person is always thanked the last. Jaspal Singh Kandhari of Kandhari Beverages, not only sponsored the cold drinks for the occasion, but has also sent in a cheque for INR 25000.00 as a gesture of goodwill towards our Club. Indeed, the Club is grateful to Mr. Kandhari.

Indeed, we now look beyond the parish pump.

## Membership Leaders Discuss Economic Crisis

Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators (RRIMCs) discussed how to respond to the worldwide economic crisis when they met in Chicago for an annual training event.

The RRIMCs, who work with Districts and Clubs to improve member recruitment and retention, also focussed on ways to achieve diversity and increase retention rates.

Judi Beard-Strubing, an RRIMC from Zone 23 in the USA and a retired Wall Street financial adviser, noted that some Rotarians are resigning from their clubs as a result of job loss or economic difficulties.

During a discussion led by Beard-Strubing and John Gomes, a member of the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee and a former RRIMC from South Africa, participants suggested that Rotary Clubs help struggling members pay their dues by establishing support programs, or even dipping into district funds to offset some of the cost. Other ideas included:

- Allowing club members to attend meetings without having to pay for a full meal
- Finding a less expensive venue for club meetings
- Surveying club members about why they value Rotary, and contacting members who have stopped attending meetings to find out why
- Offering a job networking service to unemployed club members, such as through a club or District website

RRIMC James Ives from Michigan, USA, cautioned that steps should not be seen as lowering the value of Rotary.

### Diversity

RI President-elect John Kenny has set a membership goal of a net increase of one new member per club and one new club per District during the 2009-10 Rotary year.

Kenny's membership goals also include encouraging more qualified women, young professionals, and Rotary Foundation and RI program alumni to become Rotarians so that each Rotary club reflects the demographics of the business community that surrounds it

Don Garner, a former Ambassadorial Scholar and past president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, USA, said that people just starting their careers need the networking opportunities Rotary offers. His club welcomed 64 new members, including many program alumni, during his year as president. "I did not anticipate becoming a Rotarian," he said, "but I can attest to the willingness of many Rotary alumni to join Rotary."

### Retention

Kenny has also asked for an 80 percent member retention rate in 2009-10.

During a breakout discussion, one group of RRIMCs agreed that new club members need to be invited to serve on committees or service projects to feel welcome and included. Some suggested that it may be best in some cases to guide potential members to form a new club. The original club can sponsor the new club, whose members are more likely to feel vested in Rotary.

The RRIMC program was started in 2001. RRIMCs, all Past District Governors, are appointed by the RI President-elect to a maximum term of three years. Terms are staggered among the RRIMCs and the group represents all Rotary zones.

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## Free Coupon

Our Guest Speaker this Friday is Mr. Pramod Diwan, M.D. – Headmaster, Chandigarh, who will be giving a talk on Hair & Body Care. All members who are present during the meeting will be receiving a Free Service Coupon from Headmaster.

So be there for your Hair & Body Care!

## Charanjit Singh Enters the Prestigious 'Hall of Fame'

It is a proud moment for all the friends and well wishers of PP Charanjit Singh of the Chandigarh Club. The Public Relations Council of India, on April 3rd 2009, honoured Charanjit with the 'Hall of Fame in PR' award. It is the highest award for public relations professionals for the 'extensive and remarkable' contributions made by them in their field of work by the national agency. Charanjit was presented with a shawl, a citation and a pin by the minister at Bangalore during an impressive function.

Not only Rotary Chandigarh but the entire Distt. 3080 is proud of you, Charanjit!

## Dev - A Budding Golfer

Dev Ahuja, son of Ruby and Ashish Ahuja bagged the winning trophy at the Inter - School Golf Tournament held at CGA Club, Chandigarh on Sunday, April 5 '09, by scoring maximum points in the Individual Players (under- 8) Category.

Congratulations Dev, and wish you many more successes!

## In a Lighter Vein

One day a fisherman got up very early in the morning. There was not enough sunlight to get into the sea. He saw a pack of stones to pass time. He started throwing the stone into the sea. While having the last stone in the hand, the sun came up then he saw that the stone was a diamond. He felt for his misfortune of throwing all of them into the sea.

Moral of the story:

Do not get up early in the morning!

## Sunny Indu Nana Nani Baane

PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra & Ann Indu (Past President, I.W. Chandigarh Midtown) have become Nana-Nani. Their daughter, Ita & son-in-law Suman have been blessed with twin daughters, Ananya & Anushka on Sunday, April 12 '09.

Our heartiest congratulations to the family.

## Contemporary Indian Humor

Three world famous magicians were in the bar drinking and boasting about their achievements.

The first one said, "During my latest show, I made three women from the audience disappear. It was so convincing that their relatives started panicking; no one could find them."

The second one said, "Hey, that's nothing. During one of my open air shows I made the Municipal Building disappear and the entire town was searching for it."

The third one sighed and said, "Both of you are so local. I went to Paris and made the Eiffel Tower disappear for a full one hour."

Just then an Indian walked into the bar and the three magicians suddenly turned quiet, gave each other furtive glances, and started to slip towards the door.

A bartender watching this got curious and asked one of the magicians, "Hey what happened?"

One of the magicians whispered, "He is the World's greatest magician, Ramalinga Raju. He has made US\$ 1.5 billion disappear from his company's balance sheet in front of everyone's eyes, and the entire world is still looking for it."

Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Brij Mohan Gulati

Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan



April 18

April 20

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Gurmeet & Rtn. Jagpreet Chadha



April 18

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