

# The Mid Towner



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

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John Kenny

District Governor  
Chetan Aggarwal

President  
Gurdip S. Deep

Secretary  
Ritu Singal

Editor  
PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Club No. 15228

## PROGRAMME

Volume XXXIV No. 18 October 28, 2009

Joys of Being a Rotarian  
Chief Guest: PDG J.P.S. Sibia



Friday, October 30, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

## Challenges in State Governance

Mr. Dharam Vir, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana was the Chief Guest in our club meeting on October 23, 2009. He was introduced by President Gurdip S. Deep. Mr. Dharam Vir is MSc. from IIT, Kanpur and MBA from University of Leeds, UK. He joined IAS in 1973 and has held several positions in Government of Haryana and Government of India. The President also welcomed his wife, Prof. Mrs Keya Dharamvir and his son, Prabuddha Bansal, who is pursuing Ph.D in Bio-Chemical Engineering in USA.

Mr. Dharam Vir's talk was impressively supported by multimedia presentation. He appreciated that,



Mr. Dharam Vir, IAS, Chief Secretary to Govt. of Haryana addresses the Rotarians

"Rotary International is the largest Non Governmental Organization solely meant for promoting international brotherhood, as well as helping the poor people across the world." Mr. Dharam Vir said India is perhaps the most complex country in the world. He added, "Anything you think of you would find in India; economic disparity, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, large population.... There is hardly any religion in the world which does not exist in India."

Mr. Dharam Vir said, "We have nation within a nation and large majority of people are poor." There are villages which do not have electricity, and are totally disconnected from the rest of the country. He highlighted the challenges of governance, the role of the executive – political and permanent bureaucracy. The most important issues are unemployment and harmonization of conflicting interests of different sections of people. India needs massive simplification of laws and regulations, strong system of ombudsmen, awareness campaigns, reforms in the sluggish judicial system and strengthening of regulatory bodies.

Mr. Dharam Vir stressed that voting should be made compulsory. He said people of Delhi, Mumbai or Chandigarh may not like to vote but they demand best of the facilities in the world should be available to them. He added, "Dimension of governance in India is different from that of USA, UK or Germany and many other countries. Here we have dimension of politics of religion." We erect a religious place on Government land and when it has to be removed, it



PP Dr. Balram Gupta thanks Mr. Dharam Vir for his vibrant talk. Secretary Ritu Singal also appreciates it becomes a massive law and order problem.

There is one very good thing that awareness is growing. Mr. Dharam Vir said, "People are becoming extremely conscious of their rights. Education level is going up. Media is reaching nook and corner of the country." He added, "General perception is that intent is good but implementation is not, except in some parts of the country."

Mr. Dharam Vir admitted that there is a large scale corruption which is one of the major issues in state governance. Corruption is a world-wide phenomenon. He added, "The level of corruption in many countries are extremely high but the ordinary citizens does not feel it because

their normal day to day work is not affected. In India even a person who is known to be corrupt or is convicted of serious charges, would continue to hold a position of authority, but this may not be the case in most of the countries. In spite of having the RTI Act, there is corruption in every system of governance in India, that is, bureaucracy, legislature and judiciary and there is no transparency.

Mr. Dharam Vir said, "The unfortunate part of governance in India at all levels is the lack of accountability." He added that Article 311 does not give absolute power to any governance to remove any person. One has to pass through a very circuitous court of enquiry which may not reach its logical conclusion. Then there is a very favourable judicial system to ensure no action against persons who are responsible for acts of misconduct. Mr. Dharam Vir added that even the bureaucracy may take years and years to decide a matter and there is no accountability. The role of media which has become very active, some times exceeds its limits and may even bias the minds of the decision makers.

Intent of governance is reflected through its programmes and implementation of law. RTI Act is



Mr. Dharam Vir presents a gift to birthday boy Rtn. B.S. Channi



Punctuality award is presented by Mr. Dharam Vir to Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra

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the right given to the people of India to seek information and accountability.

Quoting the Chief Information Commissioner, Mr. Dharam Vir concluded, "Even the Judges come under the RTI Act. They are answerable to the people of India. They are arbitrators to the disputes of the country but they are not above the law of the land."

## One Micro loan and Two Scholarships

Mr. Dharam Vir, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana presented one Micro loan and two Scholarships at our last club meeting. President Gurdip Deep acknowledged the contribution of Rs. 15000/- by Rtn. Arjan Singh towards the scholarship programme.

Mrs. Kanta Devi of Janata Colony runs single handedly a fair price shop for essential daily needs. She is our latest micro loan beneficiary. A loan of Rs. 20,000/- was given to her.

Ms. Nisha Bansal received her scholarship cheque for Rs. 25,000/-. She is studying in third year Engineering and was identified for scholarship last year. She has done very well in her studies scoring 73% marks.

Vote of thanks was proposed by PP Dr. Balram Gupta. He thanked Mr. Dharam Vir for, "An open heart surgery about challenges of state governance. He had spoken with conviction and has not spared any wing of the state. He has been forthright in pin pointing what is happening around and then provide a solution."

Deepak Kumar, our newest scholar, is studying for his masters in English. He is from a family with very limited means belonging to Jind, Haryana. He was given a scholarship of Rs. 7500/-.

## Free Eye, Dental and Medical Camp

Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown is organizing a Free Eye, Dental and Medical Check-up Camp on Saturday, October 31, 2009 at Rural Poly Clinic, Sarangpur, Chandigarh at 9.30 A.M. President Deep requests Rotarians to be present in the camp in large numbers to inspire the medical team, engaged in serving the poor patients.

Please note new Mobile No. of Rtn. Raj Kumar Luther is 98149-29297



Micro loan cheque being presented to Mrs. Kanta Devi by Mr. Dharam Vir



Nisha Bansal receiving her scholarship cheque from Mr. Dharam Vir

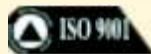


Deepak Kumar receives his cheque from Mr. Dharam Vir

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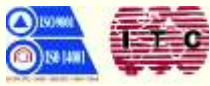


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## Intercity on The Rotary Foundation

Nearly 400 delegates from 52 clubs of District 3080 attended the Seminar at Hotel Viceroy Inn, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun on October 25, 2009. Hosted by the oldest Rotary Club in our District, Dehradun, the event had the presence of Past RI Director and former Governor of Uttarakhand and Sikhim Sudarshan Agarwal, Past RI Director O.P. Vaish, RI Director Nominee Designate Yash Das and other District leaders.

Even though PRIP Raja Saboo was not able to be physically present, his message on the philosophy of giving was video graphed and played. That perhaps was the high point of the Seminar.

The interventions of the Past RI Directors were so effective that on the spot contributions to the Foundation touched nearly US\$ 40,000. Yash in his impressive audio visual presentation traced the history of our contributions wherein in 2007-08 the District's total contribution to the TRF had reached the record figure of US\$ 325,773/- and made an impassionate plea for making the dream of DG Chetan Agarwal of a contribution of US\$364,000/- a reality.

Among speakers who dealt with various aspects of the

Foundation was PDG Shaju Peter who spoke on the technicalities of DDF and DSG and the implications of the Future Vision Plan.

President Anuj S Singh and Intercity Chairman Rakesh Agarwal deserve compliments for the relentless efforts they made in organizing a meaningful and effective Seminar.

Besides Lovy, PP Indrajeet Sengupta and Mala represented Chandigarh Midtown.

## Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to PP Rtn. Devi Prasad Khandelia on the demise of his revered father, Shri Mahabir Prasad on October 22, 2009. Kirtan and pagri ceremony will be held on Monday, November 02, 2009, between 3 PM and 4 PM at Arya Samaj Temple, Opposite Sports Complex, Sector 7, Chandigarh.

Mr. D.P. Sood uncle of Rtn. Deepak Sood had come from UK to attend a marriage. He suddenly expired on October 20, 2009. Our heartfelt condolences to the aggrieved family.

## Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn Dr. Jawahar Luthra.

## Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Ashwani Kumar Bhateja



November 04



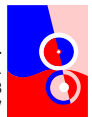
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All correspondence to the Editor :

PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra E-mail : drvjsvohra@gmail.com, Mob. 09814006829

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