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# The Midtowner



Club Number : 15228

**Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080**

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**Raj Kumar Luther**

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Editor  
**Dr. V. J. S. Vohra**

Volume XXXVI No. 22 Dated: November 30, 2011

PROGRAMME

Rotary Friendship Exchange Team from RI District 9320

Friday, December 02, 2011

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## *Asia Rising - What it means to the USA*

Our club meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at English Department Auditorium, Panjab University, Chandigarh was an event of great importance with the gracious presence of Mr. Peter Burleigh, Ambassador of USA to India, as our Chief Guest to talk on 'Asia Rising - What it means to the USA'. PRIP Rtn. Rajendra K. Saboo was the Guest of Honour.



*Mr. Peter Burleigh, Ambassador of USA to India, addresses the Rotarians*

President Rtn. R.K. Luther welcomed our Chief Guest, Mr. Peter Burleigh and also acknowledged the presence PRIP Raja Saboo, PDG Rtn. Maj. Som Dutt, PDG Mrs. Rtn. Kanwal Bedi, PDG Shaju Peter, DGE Rtn. Manmohan Singh, AG Rtn. Rajnish Gupta, Presidents and Past Presidents of other clubs in the tricity. President Luther handed over the proceedings to the Event Chair PDG Shaju Peter, who made it a point to strictly stick to the schedule.

Ambassador Burleigh was introduced by Rtn. Arjan Singh, who is his friend for the last more than 40 years! Ambassador Burleigh was born March 7, 1942 in Los Angeles, California. He is a United States foreign service officer and diplomat. He is a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy. He graduated from Colgate University with a Bachelor of Arts in 1963. After a distinguished career as a U.S. Foreign Service

officer who served as Ambassador and Deputy Representative of the United States to the United Nations, he retired after 33 years of service in August 2000. Prior to his U.N. post, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives (1995-1997). Ambassador Burleigh held a number of senior positions at the State Department and served in United States embassies in Nepal, Bahrain, and India, as well as Sri Lanka. Ambassador Burleigh served in the Peace Corps (1963-1965) in Nepal, doing community development work in the far west of that country, and spent a year on a Fulbright scholarship in Nepal. Ambassador Burleigh speaks Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, and Sinhalese. He is also serving as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Miami.

On the US perspective on India's role in regional and global affairs, the US Ambassador to India, Mr. Peter Burleigh began his talk by quoting US President Obama's positive impressions that was emerged during his visit to India in November 2010. The Ambassador acknowledged the rise of India as a major power in South Asia region. He emphasized that the United States was committed for a greater role of India in the present world order, which was endorsed by the visit of the US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton in July 2011.

Welcoming the rise of India as a major power in the South Asian region, Ambassador Burleigh endorsed regional partnership for enhancing global security. He also highlighted the growing engagement of India in the present world order, wherein the US is visualizing a greater role for India, outside the subcontinent. The latest being the trilateral deep security engagement involving US-Japan-India. Hence he reiterated that India must be prepared for bigger role which would require India to expand its traditional sphere of interest from South Asia to neighbouring regions like Southeast Asia.

Speaking on the US presence in Afghanistan Ambassador Burleigh was candid that the US does not visualize a permanent military presence in that region, and that the US forces would soon be pulled out from there.

The Ambassador remarked that in spite of the setbacks, "The world still looks to the United States for leadership. Our military is the strongest and our economy is the largest in the world. Our workers are most productive and universities are renowned the world over." He added, "We look to collaborating with reemerging powers such as India and China." He said there has been a great change of attitude towards Asia with whom US wants to have good relations, including with India. He stressed on peace and prosperity.

Speaking on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail, Ambassador Burleigh said, "It will not affect small traders and rather help both consumers and farmers. I think examples around the world, countries which have FDI in retail, which are some very important economic countries including China. The concern that small traders and small merchants in villages and towns will be badly impacted by FDI and will not be competitive, it has turned out to be not true". Stating that though it was an obvious concern of small retailers, he emphasized, "I do not think if FDI were increased by whatever amount, we will see difference with regard to small kiranas that exist all over the country."

Backing FDI in multi-brand retail, the Ambassador said, "It would be in the interest of both consumers and farmers." With 51 per cent FDI into multi-brand retail, he said, "I think that prices for consumers would go down, you can have stable prices for farmers over time." However, he made it

clear that it is the Indian Government, political parties and people who would have to decide on this issue.

Ambassador Burleigh responded to the queries raised by Rotarians, and from our club PPRtn. Gurdip S. Deep, PPRtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma and Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua had a direct face to face communication with the US Ambassador. Though time was short, yet it was an interesting interactive session!

Talking about the recent frisking of former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at New York's JFK Airport, Ambassador Burleigh expressed his concern and said that on behalf of the US government he had apologized, and that steps were being taken to prevent similar incidents from happening again. The Ambassador pointed out that there were 700 persons on the Indian list who should be exempted from security checks while the US has only five persons! There are negotiations with the Indian Government to have lesser people on the list.

In his expression of gratitude, PDG Shaju Peter thanked the Ambassador, Mr. Peter Burleigh for sharing his valuable views with us. He thanked PRIP Raja Saboo for inducting new members in our club and recognizing the Paul Harris Fellows. He also thanked all the visiting Rotarians and the Press. He expressed our gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, Professor R.C. Sobti for not charging us anything for the wonderful venue.



President R.K. Luther gives welcome remarks



Rtn. Arjan Singh introduces Mr. Peter Burleigh



Expression of Gratitude by PDG Shaju Peter



Ambassador Peter Burleigh presents Rotary Club Milano Sud-Est, Italy scholarship cheque of Rs. 25000 to Ms. Jyoti

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*Ambassador Peter Burleigh exchanges Rotary flags with President R.K. Luther, from a Rotary Club in Florida*



*President R.K. Luther presents a memento to Mr. Peter Burleigh*



*Ambassador Peter Burleigh presents birthday gifts to R'ann Maniki Deep, R'ann Purnima Sood and R'ann Sushobhita Sharma. Looking on is President R.K. Luther*

### Two New Young Rotarians Inducted by PRIP Raja Saboo



*Amandeep Singh, accompanied by his spouse Dilpreet*



*Amit Jain, accompanied by his spouse Meenakshi*



*PRIP Raja Saboo gives valuable advice to new Rotarians*

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## PHF Recognitions by PRIP Raja Saboo



PRIP Raja Saboo presents PHF recognitions to Rtn. Jeetan Bhambari and Atul Luther, son of President R.K. Luther

## Club Elections : Rotary Year 2012-13

In the Board of Directors meeting it was decided to call nominations from members of the Club for the office bearers for the Rotary Year 2012-13 and for President for 2013-14, which has to be as per bye-laws of our club;

- President 2013-14 : Minimum 2 years on the Board of Directors at the time of assuming office.
- Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer : Should have been on the Board of Directors for one year at the time of assuming office.
- Five Directors, Joint Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms : Should have been member of the Club for atleast 12 months at the time of elections.

Secretary Rtn. Amarjit Singh will receive nominations till 8.30 p.m. on Friday, 09.12.2011. Withdrawals will be accepted till 8.30 p.m. on 15.12.2011. Scrutiny of proposals will be on 16.12.2011. Elections will be held on Friday, 23.12.2011.

## Your photograph with the Ambassador

We had engaged a professional photographer from Tejee Studio to cover the function at Panjab University where we had Mr. Peter Burleigh, US Ambassador to India with us. Tejee has uploaded about 180 snaps on to its website [www.tejees-studio.com](http://www.tejees-studio.com)

Please click the link 'photo gallery' on the home page and then click client log in. You would need the code e1125c27 to open the thumbnails.

Once you reach there you can select the photographs you want and email the numbers to Tejee. A 5 x 7 print will cost you only Rs.35.

Some of the pictures look absolutely stunning! If you have difficulty in ordering prints please get in touch with Event Chair PDG Shaju Peter.

## Rotary District Golf Tournament

Rotary District Golf Tournament was held at the Chandigarh Golf Club on Sunday, 27 November 2011. About 50 Rotarian golfers from RI District 3080 participated in this prestigious golf tournament. District Governor Manpreet Singh was the Chief Guest who distributed prizes to the winners. Though Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik was adjudged the best, there were other individual prizes as well.

Our club, represented by PP Rtn. Harish Sethi, PP Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu, Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva, Rtn. P.K. Verma and Rtn. T.L. Verma had good participation in the tournament, which was played on the stableford format. PP Sandeep Sandhu was declared 'gross winner'. Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva was announced 'nett winner'. The 'nearest to the pin' award was also won by Sandeep Sandhu.

### Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Neeru Khattar



December 05

### Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain



December 03

Rtn. Om Prakash Malik

December 08

### Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Malabika & PP Rtn. Indrajeet Sengupta December 03

R'ann Gagan Meet & Rtn. Tej Mohan Singh December 07

R'ann Suman & Rtn. Vijay K. Gupta December 07

R'ann Sushobhita & PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma December 08

**PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter**

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