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# The Midtowner



Club Number : 15228

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

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

Volume XXXVI No. 33 Dated: February 14, 2012

PROGRAMME

Changing Lifestyle – Effects on Health

*Viewpoint by:* Rtn. Dr. Anurag Sharma

Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Max Hospital, Mohali

Friday, February 17, 2012

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## District Conference

### *Celebrating Change*

On Saturday-Sunday, February 11-12, 2012, District Conference, 'Celebrating Change', was held at Shivalik Public School, Phase VI, Mohali. The Conference was graced by Rotary International President's Special Representative RI Director John C. Smarge, accompanied by his wife Cindy (elegantly dressed in a sari), PRIP Raja Saboo & Usha ji and RI Director Yash Das & Manju ji. Over 1000 Rotarians attended the conference from 75 clubs of District 3080. Our club was well represented by President, Secretary, Past Presidents, Rotarians and R'anns.



*Lighting the Lamp. L-R: Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, DG Manpreet Singh, Rtn. Poonam, R'ann Cindy and RI Director John Smarge*

The District Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Member of Parliament, Senior Advocate, popular media face on TV and Spokesperson of the Congress

Party. Talking about "Celebrating Change", he stated, "Over the years, Rotary has proved to be the biggest catalyst of change and its service to humanity is indeed praiseworthy." He observed, "I have noticed that Rotarians seem to have some sort of junoon in them to selflessly go and serve the needy and that is an incredible facet of their life that must be recognized and honoured."

Dr. Singhvi said, "There are four things in which I would like to see change in India. Education, Eradicating Corruption, Judicial Reforms and Electoral Reforms would be my priorities." He explained that in case of Education, it would not just be on numbers, but also on the quality of our education system. He added corruption has to be eliminated while judicial reforms could help remove the huge backlog of cases piled up in the courts. Similarly electoral reforms would help cleanse the system.

Dr. Singhvi acknowledged the role Rotary has played in his life. He said his father Dr. LM Singhvi, was selected by Rotary for a scholarship to go to Harvard and this changed the course of his entire life as well as of the family.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Kuldip Nayyar, a veteran Indian journalist, syndicated columnist, human right activist and author, addressed Rotarians on 'Change: Family Values'. He said, "One of India's major strengths is our close family ties." He said World leaders have envied India for this and looked upon India as a source of strength to promote this in their own communities. "I compliment you Rotarians too, for working so hard as a close knit family and helping eradicate Polio all over



*RID John Smarge*



*Dr. Abhishek Singhvi*



*PRIP Raja Saboo*



*RID Yash Das*



*Mr. Kuldip Nayyar*

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**District Governor  
Manpreet Singh**

**Master of Ceremony  
Change Maker Awards  
PDG J.P.S. Sibia**

polio-free India which he said is a major accomplishment, since Rotary has contributed more than US\$ 900 million for the

the world,” he stated.

RI President's special representative RID John Smarge in his address to the Rotarians highly appreciated the role Indian Rotarians for the full one year of

protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. He said, “Rotary will raise another US\$ 200 million towards US\$ 355 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.”

In his address District Governor Manpreet Singh said, “This is an occasion for all of us to exchange notes and get inspired from other Rotarians in our District for the good work they are doing. This is the time when we see ourselves in a different role, as 'Change Makers', as our RI President Kalyan Banerjee likes to call the Rotarians. And rightly so, because every moment of every day, every Rotarian is thinking about others and making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate or are in need.”

### Change Maker Awards



**Change Maker Award being  
presented to Mr. Chander Mohan**

**Mrs. Kanta Swaroop  
Krishan gets the award**

In the Plenary Session 1 of District Conference, Change maker Awards, to recognize the contributions made by persons who changed the lives of thousands of others through their selfless service, were presented to Mrs. Kanta Swaroop Krishan for dedicating her life to the promotion of voluntary blood donation and Padmashri Chandra Mohan for his leadership quality, management skills and his contribution to the movement of total quality management in the country. These awards were presented by RID John Smarge, PRIP R.K. Saboo, RID Yash Das and DG Manpreet Singh.

### Peace in the Competitive World

Plenary Session 2 of the conference focused on panel discussion on “Peace in the Competitive World”. Dr. Chrissie Chawanje Mughogho, High Commissioner of Malawi, said that most conflicts in the world are because of limited resources and economic disparities across the nations. There is a need for emergence of more regional groups around the world to resolve conflicts amongst nations, which can lead to growth in their respective regions.

Mr. Kim Joong-Keun, Ambassador of Korea, endorsed the strengthening of regional groups to ensure security and safety of each region. He observed that the concept of ensuring peace by being ready for war was no longer valid, and the paradigm shift is required in our thinking and policies “to be prepared for peace if you want peace.”

Mr. Juan Hose Santander, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission

of Argentina to India, remarked that efforts for peace amongst



*Peace is for better life for future generations, say the Envoys*

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Kanwar Sandhu

nations must be looked at from the human angle. Peace should be seen as a process for creating a better life for our future generation.

Panel discussion moderator Mr. Kanwar Sandhu, Managing Editor of Day & Night news channel, concluded that all human beings are citizens of one world, and the choice is either to live in competition and conflict, or with cooperation.

The first day of the conference concluded with amazing performance by well known singer Lakhwinder Wadali, who entertained the Rotarians with his unique blend of classical and modern music.



Lakhwinder Wadali

### Shreyas Awards



General V.P. Malik  
Former Army Chief

The Shreyas Awards were presented on the 2nd day of the District Conference by General V.P. Malik, Chief of Army Staff from 1997 to 2000. He received AVSM and PVSM for distinguished service. He was introduced by PDG Kanwal Bedi. PRIP Raja Saboo remarked, "Today Gen. Malik is on the Board of some of the major companies – Govt. and private. He is the most respected former Chief of Army Staff."

In his address to Rotarians Gen. Malik said we fight wars because we are asked to do so. He talked about a club of retired generals which is asking the countries not to fight wars. He also congratulated the awardees of Shreyas awards.

Shreyas awardee Mr. S.P.S. Oberoi is Chairman, Apex Group of Companies, Dubai, one of the leading construction companies

in UAE. He has been involved in uplifting the economically challenged children, mass marriages of the destitute and underprivileged and higher education for poor children. He is also setting up a school for children who are mentally challenged.



Gen. V.P. Malik presents the award to S.P.S. Oberoi

Dr. B.N. Goswamy is a legend of our time whose pioneering research in the field of Indian art is exceptional, providing insight and interpretation into its finer nuances for art connoisseurs and academicians worldwide. He had a brilliant academic career, topping the University right from his



Dr. B.N. Goswamy  
Shreyas Award



PDG Shaju Peter, Master  
of Ceremony Shreyas awards



Shreyas awards Citations read by (L-R) PDG Satish Saluja,  
PP Dr. Balram Gupta and PDG Dr. R.S. Parmar



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matriculation to his masters and was the recipient of numerous scholarships and fellowships. He joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1956 and after just two years of service resigned to get back to his first love - academics. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2008.

### An Inspiring Keynote Address by A.P. Singh

The keynote address on second day of District Conference was given by Mr. A.P. Singh, Director Lion International. It was a very inspiring talk, something which is much needed for any service organization. He said we go out asking for money for our projects. It is not a donation. It is an investment in the infrastructure of the country for the future and we are just the trustees for the future generation. We need to change our mind set.

Talking about leaders, he said leaders take people where they want to go. Leaders should actually take people where they ought to go! We cannot change the facts. But we can change the process, we should change with the time. He said under the leadership of PRIP Raja Saboo, Rotarians have done magic under their polio campaign. The world would be grateful.

It is a great achievement that Rotarians have brought the polio level in India to zero. He said Lions are trying to do the same for blindness.

The third awardee Mr. Rajpal Singh, the Captain of the Indian hockey team, was given Shreyas award for his contribution to hockey, and recently India has performed quite well in the international matches.

Elaborating on change, Mr. A.P. Singh said motor companies made cars 100 years ago and they make them today, but the models keep changing and updated as per emerging technology, conditions and requirements, but the basic idea of using the car for going from one place to another remains the same. A mobile company does not wait for the competitor to change the model, they do it themselves, they make their own model obsolete every six months. They don't wait for their competitors to make their models obsolete.



Mr. A.P. Singh

A.P. Singh concluded his mind blowing talk in a fabulous style, and attracted a long & thunderous applause from the Rotarians. Rotary International Director John Smarge presented him a token of appreciation on behalf of Rotarians.

### Closing Session

PDG Major Som Dutt gave an impressive presentation on Leadership Academy. DGE Manmohan Singh in his address disclosed that next District Conference would be held in Bhargava Auditorium, PGI, Chandigarh on 23-24 February 2013. IPDG Madhukar Malhotra read out the Resolutions and gave Vote of thanks.


### DGN 2014-15

The Nominating Committee comprising of PDG Hemant Arora, PDG Dhian Chand, PDG Satish Saluja, PDG Chetan Aggarwal and IPDG Madhukar Malhotra nominated Rtn. Col. Dilip Patnaik of Rotary Club Dehradun Central as District Governor Nominee for 2014-15.

### Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Meenakshi Jain  February 17  
R'ann Shashi Gupta  February 19

### Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Lalit K. Azad  February 19  
Rtn. Rajiv Gupta  February 21

### Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Saroj & Rtn. Santosh K. Khaitan February 17  
R'ann Meenakshi & Rtn. Amit Jain February 17  
R'ann Brij Bala & Rtn. M.K. Handa February 18  
R'ann Ranjana & Rtn. S.C. Kapoor February 18  
R'ann Rajneet & Rtn. Srirambir Sandhu February 20  
R'ann Mira & PP Rtn. J.L. Mahajan February 22

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