

The Midtowner

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

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Sakuji Tanaka

District Governor
Manmohan Singh

President
Ritu Singal

Secretary
Ashok Puri

Editor
Dr. V. J. S. Vohra

Volume XXXVII No. 22 Dated: November 27, 2012

PROGRAMME

Disability Empowerment by defeating Stress
PowerPoint Presentation by: PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra
Consultant, Otto Bock HealthCare India

Sr. Consultant - Prosthetics & CEO, Nevedac Prosthetic Clinic: MediRehab Systems

Friday, November 30, 2012

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Evolution of and Ethics in Media

Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, Senior Editor, NDTV was the Chief Guest for our club meeting on November 23, 2012. He was introduced by PP Gurdip S. Deep. Mr. Vikram Chowdhary has done BA in Economics, Business Management, Political Science and MA in Defence & International Strategy. He is with NDTV for last 17 years. Presently he is the senior editor for North India. In 2004 he was awarded fellowship by British Foreign Office to study journalism at Thomson Foundation in Wales. In 2006 he was honoured with Goenka award by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for reporting from Jammu & Kashmir. In 2009 he was awarded fellowship by Netherlands Government to study broadcast journalism in Holland.

As per Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards laid down by News Broadcasters Association (NBA), New Delhi, the Constitution of India guarantees to all its citizens, the right to free speech, which right has been liberally construed by our Supreme Court as encompassing not just the freedom of press, but also the right of the citizen to be informed of matters of public moment and concern. India is the world's largest democracy, demographically marked by diversity in religion, language and caste, and undoubtedly has problems that are significantly peculiar to it. Yet at the same time, it shares certain common values with other vibrant democracies, and one of them is balancing the freedom of the press with putting in place

checks and balances that seek to instill a sense of responsibility and to prevent abuse of this freedom, without the "chilling effect" that would impair journalistic freedom.

Speaking on 'Evolution of and Ethics in Media', Mr. Vikram Chowdhary explained that evolution of news gathering, with technology playing a fascinating role, attracted him to journalism, but he confessed that speaking on ethics in media is very delicate matter and it is very difficult to define it, but he stressed on the fact that one needs to be very honest which was taught to him by his mother. He said even NDTV focuses on ethics and it has credibility.

We in India have good institutions for teaching technology or management but we do not have good journalism schools which teach ethics.

Though many channels have come up, they tend to follow BBC or CNN pattern but we do not know anything about ethics.



Vikram Chowdhary



PP Dr. Balam Gupta presents a memento to Mr. Vikram Chowdhary



President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri present a cheque for Rs. 1100/- to President of Rotract Club of Chandigarh Midtown Rtr. Sushant Gupta



Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri present birthday gift to R'ann Maniki Deep



Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri present birthday gift to R'ann Purnima Sood



Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri present wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Sunita & Rtn. Amarjit Singh



Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri present wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Parul and Rtn. Satil Bali



PE Rtn. Deepak Sood gets punctuality award from Mr. Vikram Chowdhary, President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri

Vikram very candidly observed, "It is not just the journalists who need to be evolved, it is the viewers, who are the masters who dictate what we tend to show you. Society needs to evolve rather than journalistic ethics. You hold the remote control in your hands and it is you to decide what you want to see. A good journalist can give you a bitter dose with a good taste."

Elaborating on ethics in India, Vikram pointed out that all big business houses are into news gathering and they own the channels. Their objectives are very clear. They have to take care of their political and business interests. India's economy is growing. The reality is that revenue has to be generated even by news channels.

Vikram remarked, "Whatever we are, we are not hypocrites like developed countries. The foreign journalists would never report

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anything which is against their national interests and for that they are not governed by their own ethics, which they try to teach us!" He concluded, "Balancing out stories is ethics for me. There is a very sensitive line between ethics, national interests and interest of the common masses."

There was a very vibrant interactive discussion between the Rotarians and the chief guest, who was fully knowledgeable

about his subject, to face and even tackle the critical observations with cool and calm response.

Vote of thanks was proposed by PP Dr. Balram Gupta who said, "Ethics cannot be taught in schools but it is a lifetime experience." He thanked Mr. Vikram Chowdhary for giving us the recipe of honesty covered with a digestive package.

PP T.S. Anand contributes his 1000 points for PHF, attractive offer of \$ 450 only!

President Ritu Singal said, "Last week we had made 10 PHFs, and we had consumed the 1000 points we had, and now we hope to make more PHFs and multiple PHFs." Ritu thanked PP Rtn. T.S. Anand, a major donor, for being kind enough to contribute another 1000 points from his account towards PHF. With this and 50% support from the District, we would continue having

PHFs for \$ 450 only! Those who have already contributed to Rotary Foundation can also avail this golden opportunity by giving the balance amount which will also reduce proportionately. Please contact President Ritu or Secretary Ashok Puri immediately, to avail this attractive offer!

Achieve tasks of RAGs before District Governor's visit on 14 Dec. 2012

President Ritu Singal has sent letters to all the 26 Past Presidents of Rotary Action Groups, urging them to complete the three tasks of:

1. Making one PHF.
2. Introduce one new member

3. Motivate a passive Rotarian to become active by attending club meetings and other activities.

The successful RAGs will be recognized during the official visit of District Governor Rtn. Manmohan Singh on December 14, 2012.

Visit to Sewing and Tailoring Centre, Faida Village, Chandigarh

On 21st November 2012 Rtn. Ashok Kumar Puri, Secretary, Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, along with his spouse R'ann Sudha Puri, Chairman Sewing and Tailoring Centre, Faida Village, Chandigarh, visited the centre, which has been equipped with essential things like fan, chairs and tables, daris etc., and has six sewing machines including a motorized one.

Sixteen women/girls of that village are being trained very efficiently, under able guidance of their teacher Mrs. Sabeena, who takes lot of interest for methodical teaching of said course to these students. In order to inspire more interest in these courses, we have been charging a very nominal fee of Rs. twenty only per month from each student. We are putting all our efforts to provide better and more facilities to this centre, run by our club.



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Special Interact Club coming up in Dec. 2012

We have been having meetings at Society for Rehabilitation of Mentally Challenged (SOREM), Sector 36, Chandigarh for a challenging project of forming an Interact Club comprising of special children of SOREM, as proposed by Chair, Disability Empowerment and Rehabilitation PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra.

Director New Generations Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra introduced the buddy program for setting up this Interact club. A parent and faculty meeting was organised at SOREM on 23 November 2012. Dr. Rita Kalra said, "The buddy program is to help us to identify the special needs of these children and thus bring us closer to them, to make them feel that they are accepted by the

society, giving peace and solace to their parents and guardians."

Dr. Rita added, "This program was welcomed by all parents who were very happy to know about the initiatives of Rotarians towards the cause of social rehabilitation of special children." 7 Rotaractors from Chandigarh Midtown led by President Rtr. Sushant Gupta and 2 Rotaractors from Dev Samaj College for Girls including President Rtr. Christina Alexander and Secretary Rtr. Anjni Sharma spent some quality time with children. The Interact club of SOREM is expected to be installed on 23 December 2012 so as to coincide with Christmas celebrations.

Vishnu Kumar Gupta Memorial Debate on 7 Dec. 2012

In our club meeting on Friday, December 07, 2012 we are organizing Vishnu Kumar Gupta Memorial Debate, having Rotaractors from Chandigarh Tricity participating in this program. The debate will be on, "The Indian Media have abandoned the Ethics of Objectivity for Sensationalization."



Inayat Singal

Inayat wins Gold Medal in Table Tennis

Our heartiest congratulations to Inayat Singal, daughter of President Mrs. Ritu Singal, who has recently won Gold Medal in Sub Junior Girl's double category in 25th Chandigarh State Table Tennis Championship 2012 held on 16th November 2012.

She also bagged silver medals in sub junior girl's singles and team category.

President Ritu Singal's Facet of Peace – Step 18: Don't Profess but Practice

It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us strong, not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich, not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned, and not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity, peace and happiness.

Acknowledgement with thanks!

Donations for Club Projects:

R'ann Maniki Deep
R'ann Purnima Sood
R'ann Parul & Rtn. Salil Bali
R'ann Sunita & Rtn. Amarjit Singh

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Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Neeru Khattar

December 05

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Shashi Jain

December 03

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Malabika & PP Rtn. Indrajeet Sengupta

December 03



Punctuality Draw

Won by PE Rtn. Deepak Sood

PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter

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