



# The Midtowner

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

R. I. President  
**Sakuji Tanaka**

District Governor  
**Manmohan Singh**

President  
**Ritu Singal**

Secretary  
**Ashok Puri**

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

View our weekly bulletins online, updated every week on our website since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 till date

Volume XXXVII No. 52 Dated: June 25, 2013

PROGRAMME

Club Assembly

Organized by: President 2013-14 Rtn. Deepak Sood

Directors / Chairs to give their views for Projects & activities for 2013-14

Friday, June 28, 2013

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## Rotary Friendship Exchange with District 2490 (Israel)



Sergeant-at-Arms Dr. V.J.S. Vohra collars DG Manmohan Singh

also excelled academically, having degrees in Civil Engg., Arts, Law and Management, and is Chartered Engineer of Institution of Engineers, (India), Calcutta. In Rotary, he has graduated from the first batch of the Rotary Leadership Academy of District 3080.

PE Deepak Sood also gave a brief introduction of PP Harish Sethi, who is a Rotarian since 1963. He led GSE Team to District 7910 (USA) in 2000. He also led Rotary Friendship Exchange team to UK in 2009, Alaska in July 2011 and to District 9320 (South Africa) in March 2012. He was nominated on the Administrator's Advisory Council in 2010. He is Chairman of Standing Committee on Traffic Management in the City. He also figures in the latest publication of 'Chandigarh and its Leading Personalities'.

This year we had a Rotary Friendship Exchange with District 2490 (Israel). Our team led by PP Harish Sethi stayed in District 2490 from 6<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> May. Other members of team were R'ann Manjit Sethi, PDG Devinder Kalra, R'ann Anuradha Kalra, President Vinod Malhotra and R'ann Versha Malhotra.

Giving his presentation, Harish said, "Israel is a relatively small country with a population of 8.01 million and is spread over an area of 21200 Sq. Km. approx. with a population density of 377 per sq. km. 75.4 % of its population are Jews, Muslims are 17 %. Remaining 7% are Christians, Druze and others. Jerusalem, the Holy city is its capital and seat of Parliament. The Israelis, backed

by thousands years of faith, represent the oldest culture in the world. Millions of tourists visit the Holy City each year. Most of them are pilgrims."

Israel is a vibrant society. Jews who form the majority are well educated, resilient and disciplined people. They believe in the theory of 'Survival of the fittest' and are never ruffled by intrusion on its borders by the neighbouring countries. PP Harish Sethi related his experience before leaving for Israel. He mentioned that 6 days before the team was to depart, Israeli planes bombed Damascus, the capital of Syria. This was the main news broadcast by BBC and CNN in the morning.

Worried by this sudden development Harish sent an email to his counterpart Mark Zober to confirm whether the RFE was still on. Mark called up about an hour later and said, "Harish we want to make your trip exciting. I wish there is more exciting news to follow." He said we always enjoy these skirmishes with our over ambitious neighbours and assured that everything is fine and they are waiting to receive us at the Tel Aviv airport on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

With hard work and use of latest developments in technology Israelis' people have not only made the desert bloom with fruits and sunflowers, they have bravely withstood the frequent attacks by the hostile neighbouring countries. In Israel most of the population is based in rural area, majority of people live on coastal plain bordering the Mediterranean. Jerusalem, Tel Aviv Jaffa and Haifa are main hubs of activity. City life in Israel is generally informal.

There is a conscious effort by planners to separate residential areas from commercial and industrial zones. Major industries are Agriculture, food processing, fertilizers, chemicals, machinery and cement. Diamond polishing and finishing is the most valuable industry. Main exports from Israel are fruits, vegetables, chemicals, fertilizers and finished diamonds. The team was shown a cement factory which is one of the largest in the region. By use of modern technology in this factory they have controlled pollution, which is a major problem in cement factories in India. The team also visited a diamond factory.

The team was shown the world famous Bahai gardens in Haifa, which was a real treat for the eyes. Team also went to Golan Heights, internationally recognized as Syrian territory. It was captured by Israel during the 1967 war. Since 1981 it is being administered by Israel. It has a strategic location and it gives Israel an excellent vantage point for monitoring Syrian movements. Galilee is the greenest part of Israel. Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), which is located close to Golan Heights is Israel's main



Team outside Care Home for Children in Israel



PP Harish Sethi handing over Club flag to DG Moshey Yoney and receiving District 2490 flag from him



Team with DG Moshey Yoney and First lady of District 2490 (Israel)



A memento, District 2490 flag and a District pin presented by DG Moshey Yoney to DG Manmohan Singh through PP Harish Sethi. Looking on are PE Deepak Sood and Secretary Ashok Puri

reservoir of fresh water. Water is piped from this area to the arid regions of south.

Our team attended meetings of Rotary Club Ramla and Maghar. Both the clubs are small but very proactive. In the meeting of Rotary Club Maghar, District Governor Moshe Yonay was the Chief Guest. He presented flags of District 2490 to the members of the team. The team was shown a Rotary supported project 'Save a child's heart' which was started in a leading hospital in 1995. So far cardiac surgeries have been performed on about 3000 children, mostly from developing countries. A very modern unit has been set up with the help of a charitable trust to look after the children before and after surgery.

The team went to Salt Sea also, which is a popular tourist destination in Israel. It is called Salt Sea because of its very high salinity, almost 9 times that of ocean. Salt Sea water has large quantities of minerals. The concentration of bromide ions is the highest of all waters on earth. Salt Sea is 423 meters below sea level, which is earth's lowest elevation on land. The high salt content and minerals in Salt Sea results in a nominal density of 1.24 kg/ litre, which makes swimming similar to floating. A swim here is always

relaxing and enjoyable experience. It has become a major Centre for health research and treatment of various diseases, like rhinosinusitis, osteoarthritis and skin problems. At an average 1.2 million foreign tourists visit this area every year.

Harish concluded, "Hospitality provided by the hosts was excellent and it was a very enjoyable and fruitful Friendship Exchange. We were taken to different parts of the country, which gave us ample opportunity to interact with large number of Rotarians having different living styles and believing in different religions. During this trip exposure to the diversity of Israel's culture has been a memorable experience."

In his address, DG Manmohan Singh said, "It is always a pleasure to be in Chandigarh Midtown. I was to go to Theog, near Shimla where a new club is to be chartered. But being Engineer-in-Chief, I could not say no to my senior, PP Harish Sethi, so I am with you."

DG Manmohan Singh highlighted the various projects completed by our District during the year and expressed his gratitude to all Rotarians of the District as almost 99.9% of the goals have been achieved. He concluded poetically;

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"Ibadaton ki tarah, main ye kaam karta hoon  
Mera asool hai, pehle salam karta hoon  
Mukhalifat se mere shakhsyat sanwarti hai  
Main dushmanon ka bara ehtaraam karta hoon  
Mujhay Khuda ne ghazal ka diyaar bakhsha hai  
Ye saltanat main muhabbat ke naam karta hoon."

Expressing gratitude on behalf of our club Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S.

Kahlon thanked District Governor Manmohan Singh for gracing the occasion. He said, "Over the year DG Manmohan Singh had very close association with our club, and has always been extremely helpful. We congratulate him on the tremendous achievements that have been made in the District under his guidance." He also thanked the First Lady of the District Rajwant Kaur for her support.



Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon present mementos to DG Manmohan Singh and PP Harish Sethi. Looking on are PE Deepak Sood and Secretary Ashok Puri



DG Manmohan Singh presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Manjit & PP Rtn. Harish Sethi



DG Manmohan Singh presents birthday gift to PP Rtn. Vinod K. Jawa



DG Manmohan Singh presents birthday gift for R'ann Deep Kahlon to Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon



DG Manmohan Singh presents birthday gift to R'ann Rekha Mehan. Looking on is PE Deepak Sood

## Appeal by DG Manmohan Singh - funds for Disaster Relief



DG Manmohan Singh presents punctuality award to Rtn. C.J. Rai

DG Manmohan Singh informed that a few days back Mr. Gulam Nabi Azad, Union Health Minister requested PRIP Raja Saboo for Rotary's helping hand towards the earthquake affected people in Doda

of areas in Utrakhland, specifically Uttarkashi in RI District 3080. An unaccounted loss of men and materials is reported in this part of our District. In addition to the financial assistance we are making arrangements to send shelter kits which include water / fire proof tent and the necessary utensils, each kit costing Rs 16600. A large number of tarpaulins (14X14 ft) costing Rs. 2000 each are also being arranged.

(J&K). We were in the thought process of arranging requisite assistance and RI Director Shekar Mehta also asked for similar help. Unfortunately the havoc of floods devastated a large number

DG Manmohan Singh appealed to all Rotarians for generous contributions for disaster relief to help thousands of persons who have suffered heavy losses. He said for depositing financial assistance the bank details are; Axis Bank, Sector 35, Chandigarh, Account Name: Rotary District 3080 Service, Account No. 910010041119575, IFSC Code: UTIB0000041.

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## Thanks Giving and Award Function of District 3080

DG Manmohan Singh requested all Rotarians to be present at 'Thanks Giving and Awards Function' on Sunday, June 30, 2013 at The Pride KC Hotel & Spa, City Centre, Sector 3, Panchkula, which will commence with breakfast from 09.30 am to 10.30 am,

followed by the Awards Ceremony, Lunch and Fellowship. The Registration charges are Rs. 950/- per person, Rs. 1800/- for a couple, till June 25, 2013. On the spot registration will be Rs. 1000/- per person.

### A Gift of Life

Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan is happy to report that our Club had sponsored one child, Nitin Pal age 3 years of Faida Village for "Hole in the heart" surgery, which has been successfully completed in Fortis Hospital, Mohali. Our sincere thanks to all donors who

donated spontaneously. Our deep sense of appreciation to Rotary Club Chandigarh, specially to Mrs. Babbi Harbhajan Singh, who took great personal care of the child and gave him a 'Gift of Life'.

### Chandigarh Midtowners leave for Lisbon RI Convention

Ten Chandigarh Midtowners have left for Lisbon, Portugal to attend the 2013 RI Convention which is held on 23-26 June 2013. They are PDG Shaju Peter & R'ann Lovy Peter, President Ritu Singal and her daughters Ishani & Inayat, Vice President Rtn. Amarjit Singh, PP Gurdip S. Deep & R'ann Maniki Deep, Secretary

Elect Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra and Dr. Sanjay Kalra.

We look forward to their return towards the end of the month, and their presentation in our club meeting to share their experience of the Convention.

### Condolences

Our deep condolences to PP Rtn. R.S. Changothia on sad demise of his mother, Mrs. Ginia Devi at the age of 95 years in Mumbai on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Prayers in her memory were held at his residence on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

### Get well soon

PP Rtn. R.S. Changothia and R'ann Sharda Chandgothia are bed ridden due to recent paralytic attacks. We wish them both a very speedy recovery and sound health.

### President Ritu Singal's Thought on Peace Control your mind

You have a complete control over your mind. However, if you don't control your mind, someone else will control it for you. It may be your friends, colleagues, media or someone else that will take over this precious asset. Always keep track of what your main thoughts

are. You should think only about things you want to see in your life. You should never dwell on negative thoughts or indulge in negative emotions. This will only make things worse.

### Acknowledgment with thanks

#### Donation for Disaster Relief:

Rtn. Dr. Col V.K. Kapoor  
Rtn. Salil Chopra  
Secretary Rtn. Ashok Puri  
PE Rtn. Deepak Sood.  
PP Rtn. Harish C. Sethi

#### Donation for Club Projects:

R'ann Rekha Mehan

#### Cocktails Sponsored by:

PP Rtn. Harish C. Sethi  
Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon  
PP Rtn. Vinod K. Jawa

### Congratulations

Rs. 10000/-  
Rs. 10000/-  
Rs. 5100/-  
Rs. 5100/-  
Rs. 2100/-

Our heartiest congratulations to R'ann Kadam & Rtn. Jeetan Bhambri as they have been blessed with a daughter on June 21, 2013.

### Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Gurmeet Chadha



June 28

### Wedding Anniversary

Rtn, Dr. Rita & Dr. Sanjay Kalra  
R'ann Nirmal & Rtn. B.B. Bahl

June 29

June 30

### Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. C.J. Rai

**PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter**

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