

# The Midtowner



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

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Club No. 15228

[www.rotarychdmidtown.org](http://www.rotarychdmidtown.org)

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**President**  
Deepak Sood

**Secretary**  
Dr. Rita Kalra

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

Volume XXXVIII No. 16 Dated: October 15, 2013

PROGRAMME

## Club Assembly

Presentation by Directors on performance of first quarter and  
Projection for the next quarter

Friday, October 18, 2013

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

### Condolence Resolution



Mr. H.L. Sood

The programme scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 2013 had to be cancelled due to sudden demise of Mr. H.L. Sood, father of our President, Rtn. Deepak Sood. Therefore general meeting was held on Friday, October 11, 2013, which was presided over by President Elect Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi, who said, "We have assembled to condole the death of father of our Club President. Life is a cycle, and pain is at the greatest

when one loses his father upon whom one looks for answers to everything. That is the situation in which our President Deepak Sood is finding himself now, because of sad demise of his father, who was fit and fine, and suddenly collapsed after having his breakfast." He added, "The moment we lose our father our status changes. We have to rebuild our relationships and we have to re-assign our duties and tasks, viz-a-viz our elders and youngers."

PDG Shaju Peter informed that never in the past a serving Club President of Chandigarh Midtown has lost his father or mother.

### Colloquium 2 on Sunday, 27th October, 2013

Secretary Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra informed that Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju will deliver a talk on Ethics for Daily Life in the morning of Sunday, 27th October, 2013 at Chandigarh Judicial Auditorium, Sector 43, Chandigarh, hosted by Rotary Clubs of Chandigarh, Chandigarh Midtown, Chandigarh Shivalik, Chandigarh Central, Chandigarh City Beautiful, Himalayan Ranges, Mohali SAS Nagar and Panchkula. Fellowship will be from 10 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. Rotarians are required to be seated in the auditorium by 10.45 am. There are no registration charges.

Prof. Anil Kumar Kamaraju (age 72) is a Professor in Bio sciences. He has taught for 17 years at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Prasanthy Nilayam, Puttaparthi, Andhra

### Medical Camp at Neemach

A Medical Camp will be held from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Neemach (Madhya Pradesh) R.I. District 3040.

The specialties for which Doctors will be required are: Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery, Gynaecology, Dental Procedures, E.N.T., General Surgery and Anaesthesia.

Shaju read the Condolence Resolution, as follows;

*"We, the members of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown extend our sincere condolences to the family, relatives and well wishers on the sudden demise of Mr. H.L. Sood, father of our worthy President, Rtn. Deepak Sood on 09.10.2013.*

*Mr. H.L. Sood was having a very pleasing personality and socially committed to social work.*

*Let your mind wander the paths of remembrance and all the good times you shared with your father and all the love he gave you throughout the years. The elders do not die. They always live in our hearts forever as a guiding spirit. We all pray to God that may his soul rest in peace."*

*The above resolution was adopted during the general meeting of the club held on 11.10.2013.*

As a mark of respect to the noble soul, two minutes silence was observed in the meeting. Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Sudesh Sood, mother of President Deepak Sood and his family.

Uthala / prayers were held on 12.10.2013 at Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Sector 6, Panchkula.

Pradesh, and served as the Principal of the Brindavan Campus of the same University at Whitefield Banagalore for 6 years. He has authored 26 books including those on the subject of Practical Spirituality, and has recorded the divine message of Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on varied aspects of life.

For the past 27 years Prof. Kamaraju has been the simultaneous translator from Telugu to English for the countless discourses given by Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the importance of human values.

All Rotarians are requested to attend the Colloquium to experience the vast knowledge of Prof. Kamaraju for daily living.

The Travelling, Food & Lodging Expenses of Doctors shall be borne by Rotary International and the expenses of Rotarian Volunteers shall be borne by themselves. Doctors who would like to participate in this programme should contact Secretary Dr. Rita Kalra.

## Adolescent seminar for students of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Manimajra



Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain, Rtn. Kanan Diwan and students

Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Shashi Jain and Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan conducted an adolescent seminar for students of Govt. Model Senior Secondary School, Modern Housing Complex, Manimajra. Principal Mrs. Kund Bala Goyal, who is also a Rotary Ann of Chandigarh Midtown, actively supported the event.

Dr. Shashi Jain talked about challenges being faced by students in this phase of life and how to balance the emotions and succeed. Rtn. Kanan Diwan talked about ethics and moral values and their importance in building one's personality.

## Poor family adopted

A blind women, with 3 children, was left by her husband on the road with no means to feed them. Her son, Neeraj studying in 6<sup>th</sup> class with 90% marks, a bright student, had no choice but to leave his studies to work at a tea shop, to enable

him to feed his mother and 2 young sisters.

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Inner Wheel Club Chandigarh Midtown adopted this family for their daily needs and their education.

## International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December 2013 Theme: "Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society for all" Cheshire Homes to provide free aids and appliances on 1st December 2013

More than 1 billion people or 15% of the world population are living with disabilities - the world's largest and most disadvantaged group - most of which, are in developing countries! It is estimated that India has about 10 million disabled persons most of whom are poor and coming from rural areas. Chandigarh tricity is having about 10000.

release of the World Report on Disability and two years away from 2015 -- the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) -- and thereafter, the commencement of the post-2015 agenda and new development priorities.

Around the world, persons with disabilities face physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that exclude them from participating fully and effectively as equal members of society. They are disproportionately represented among the world's poorest, and lack equal access to basic resources, such as education, employment, healthcare and social and legal support systems, as well as have a higher rate of mortality. In spite of this situation, disability has remained largely invisible in the mainstream development agenda and its processes.

This outcome of the HLMDD will take shape in a concise, action-oriented outcome document that will provide policy guidance and help strengthen global efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

Decades of work has been done by the United Nations to change attitudes and approaches to disability that would ensure the full equality and participation of persons with disabilities in society. High-level meeting on disability and development (HLMDD) was held on 23 September 2013; taking place five years after the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force, two years after

Cheshire Homes Chandigarh, who is fully committed to serve the disabled persons, has invited applications by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 from disabled persons requiring supportive devices and equipments. PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep, Chairman of Cheshire Homes informed that Cheshire Homes will provide free artificial limbs, tricycles, wheel chairs, sewing machines and other equipments to the needy persons. The applications will be screened by the committee headed by PP Rtn. Dr. V.J. S. Vohra on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

The deserving people shall be given these aids and appliances on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 at a function which is being organized by Cheshire Homes to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

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In addition to above, there will be a medical camp for disabled persons for general check up, eyes, ENT, skin, urology, dental and orthopaedics. PP Gurdip Deep said Rotarian doctors of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown will offer their valuable services. As Hon'y. Prosthetic Adviser to state Governments, PP Dr. Vohra will be issuing Railway travel concession passes to

disabled persons.

Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, Rotary Community Corps (whose members are disabled persons) and Inner Wheel Chandigarh Midtown will be playing significant role to make the above event meaningful and successful. Lunch will also be served to all those attending the camp.

## Indian Surgeon Helping Polio Patients Take First Step



India is getting close to marking its third year without a new recorded polio case, setting the stage for the country to be officially declared polio-free in January. While much has been done to immunize infants against the disease, millions of people are living with polio, unable to live a normal life.

But one surgeon is working to change that. At one of New Delhi's oldest hospitals, in the only designated polio ward in all of India, patients like Abida Khatoon have only one goal. "I can stand and walk," Khatoon said. "I just need a little help, and soon I won't need that as well. Soon, I will be able to walk on my own."

It took two months of surgery and rehabilitation at St. Stephen's Hospital for Khatoon to achieve her life-long dream of being able to walk.

She and other young women in this eight-bed ward credit Dr. Mathew Varghese, an orthopedic surgeon who has devoted his entire career to restoring mobility and dignity to those left crippled by the poliovirus that invades the brain and spinal cord, causing paralysis.

"All these girls have been crawling, except for this one, all the others have been crawling," Varghese said. "The other muscles are very weak. They have never had the opportunity to stand on their two feet. For the first time in their lives - like this girl is paralyzed at six months -- she has never been able to stand on her two feet."

As India gets closer to officially being declared polio-free, the

effect of the massive immunization effort can be seen in the hospital, with Varghese now mostly treating people in their early twenties as opposed to young children some two decades ago.

In 1990, New Delhi alone saw 3,000 new polio cases. Now that number is zero. The trend is reflected here at this polio ward, where at its peak it saw 600 patients annually. Now that number is down to fewer than 200.

Rotary International has been on the frontline of India's polio eradication efforts and helps fund reconstructive surgeries at St. Stephen's. Past Rotary International President Rajendra Saboo saw the need to give polio patients a second chance at a normal life during a trip to a village in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

"Then another child came, also crawling," said PRIP Saboo. "And I said 'what is happening to these children?' They seem to have been struck by polio. And the villagers said, 'no, no, no, just forget them, they are dust.'"

But Rotary and Varghese did not forget them. Patients hear about the ward and travel to New Delhi from across India in hopes of correcting bent legs and feet. No one is turned away.

After weeks in the hospital, 19-year-old Abida Khatoon is getting ready to go home to her village in Uttar Pradesh.

"If I had only met Dr. Varghese earlier, I wouldn't have had as much hardship in life," she said. "My hands wouldn't be so calloused [from using them to get around]. Because of him, I am doing better," she said tearfully.

But Khatoon is not the only one brought to tears. When asked what this surgeon's dream is -- the answer was simple.

"My dream," he asked, trying to choke back his own tears. "This ward should be empty. No polio."

Source: Voice of America News  
Courtesy: www.eflashonline.org

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## **Know Your Project** **HIV/AIDS Awareness and Blood Donation**

To educate the community on the causes of spread of HIV/AIDS is very important to ensure that people keep themselves safe from getting the infection. In this regard, the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown has joined hands with the Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society to implement awareness projects in the Chandigarh region. The funds for such sensitization programmes will be provided by the AIDS Control Programme. All members are requested to explore the possibility of holding such camps in their areas so that maximum number of people who are under high risk of getting the infection are protected. Proposals may please be submitted to PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta, who is also the Project Director of Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society, UT, Chandigarh

To ensure that safe blood is available in Chandigarh, Voluntary Blood Donation has to be promoted. Only that blood that is donated voluntarily would be free of transmissible infections and would be of good quality. In this regard, the Club has been regularly holding blood donation camps along with the 4 Blood Banks, that is, PGIMER, GMCH-32, GMSH-16 and Rotary & Blood Bank Society Sector 37. The financial support is provided to the Blood Banks for this activity by Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society.

Extra incentives are given by the Rotarians. All members are requested to explore the possibility of holding such blood donation camps in their areas. Extra financial support can be discussed. Please contact Dr. Vanita Gupta.

### **Acknowledgment with thanks**

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### **Birthday of Rotarians**

President Rtn. Deepak Sood October 20  
Rtn. T.L. Verma October 24

### **Birthday of Spouses**

Mr. Raj Karan Bhatti October 18  
R'ann Preety Anand October 19  
R'ann Monika Aggarwal October 21  
R'ann Meena Mahajan October 24  
R'ann Paramjeet Sihota October 24



### **Wedding Anniversary**

R'ann Priya & Rtn. Ashwani K. Bhateja October 18  
R'ann Patinder & Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh October 19  
R'ann Parveen & Rtn. Arjan Singh October 20  
R'ann Vandana & Rtn. Ajay K. Gupta October 20  
R'ann Moon Inder & PP Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu October 24



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