



2014-15

The Midtowner



Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

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District Governor
Col. Dilip Patnaik

President
R.T.P.S. Tulsı

Secretary
Salil Bali

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXIX No. 38 Dated: March 17, 2015

PROGRAMME

Award of Scholarship

Chief Guest:

District Governor Col. Dilip Patnaik

(Zonal Project - A joint meeting with all clubs of the Zone)

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Please note
the change in
date of the
meeting

Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit 2015



PDG Shaju Peter

In our regular meeting on March 13, 2015 PDG Shaju Peter gave a report, through audio visual presentation, on Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit 2015 which was held on February 13-15 2015 at The Balewadi Sports Complex, Pune. PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep completed the formality of introducing Shaju who is Member of Volunteer Management Committee of Rotary India Literacy Mission.

President Rtn. Ravi Tulsı thanked PE Rtn. Kanan Diwan and VP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra for presiding last couple of meetings during his absence. Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali informed about the programme for the next meeting which will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015 instead of Friday. Salil also acknowledged the presence of a

prospective member Mr. Sarabjit Singh.

Talking about the Literacy Summit at Pune, PDG Shaju said, "29 years ago Rotarians of the world had a dream to have a polio free world. We have nearly arrived." For Rotarians of India it was a proud moment in March 2013 because WHO declared India as polio free. The polio eradication continues to be the prime program of Rotary International even today as three countries Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria still have polio.

Now that India is free from polio, Rotarians of India have come up with a new dream, that is, to make India, and the rest of South Asia, totally literate by 2017. Shaju referred to the assembly of Rotarians from the sub continent at Kathmandu 3 years ago, the main architect of this mission being PRIP Kalyan Banerjee. It was decided to work for 100 percent literacy by having this as the signature program of the sub continent. Shaju said, "Though the target of 100 percent literacy by 2017 is too ambitious and seems impossible, but Rotarians always make the impossible possible." Since the Kathmandu assembly this mission has moved a long way followed by Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit at New Delhi in December 2013 and it was an elaborate event of launching this program nationally with participation of Rotarians from the neighboring countries.

PRIP Kalyan Banerjee is the Chief Advisor of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM). Shaju remarked, "He conceived the idea of 100 percent literacy in India and it is his vision, and he is very optimistic of achieving the target." PRID Shekhar Mehta, Chair of



From left: Rotary Pakistan Literacy Mission Chair Faiz Kidwai, PDG Salim Reza - D 3271, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta, DGN Showket Hossain - D 3281, Pakistan National PolioPlus Chair Aziz Memon



In addition to PDG Shaju, our club was represented at the Pune Summit by Rtn. Ashok Puri, R'ann Sudha Puri, R'ann Pushpa Jawa and PP Rtn. Vinod Jawa. As Shaju puts it we were in large number as compared to other clubs in India

RILM has been making great efforts to carry out this mission in India.

The Delhi summit was followed up by another one at Pune. Shaju said, "This was because Pune is known as 'Oxford of the East', having highest concentration of educational institutions in the country." This mega event was amazing with participation of 1,250 Rotarians from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal to endorse a dream to make India, and the rest of South Asia, totally literate by 2017. This was the only Rotary event where all 34 Indian Rotary Districts were represented.

Among the galaxy of speakers were PRIP Raja Saboo, TRF Trustee Chair John Kenny, RIPE K.R. Ravindran, PRID Sudarshan Aggarwal, PRID Yash Das, RID Director P.T. Prabhakaran, RIDE Dr. Manoj Desai, and Mrs. Rajashree Birla the great philanthropist who has been contributing a lot to Rotary. Minister of State (Govt. of India) for Skill Development Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy spoke on entrepreneurial skills and literacy. The large number of eminent speakers included 90 year old Mr. F.C. Kohli, the founder and first CEO of Tata Consultancy Services. Shaju said, "The way he spoke with intellectual sharpness was remarkable, and he impressed me the most."

The focus on the Rotary literacy goals is well explained under the wonderful acronym T-E-A-C-H, which include teacher support, e-learning, adult literacy, child development and happy schools. The beauty of this is that each of the five elements come together

wonderfully to give the gift of total literacy to India. With the faith, commitment, enthusiasm, sincerity and great efforts of Rotarians of India this will be achieved. Shaju stated, "I am so happy that Chandigarh Midtown's signature project and as far as our President's focus is concerned, it is coinciding with the signature project of Rotary in India, and I am sure this will continue next year."

Celebrity endorsements have been pouring in from Amitabh Bachchan, Raveena Tandon, Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar, Anna Hazare, Sonakshi Sinha and Juhi Chawla. Rotary is closely working with the Government of India and major corporate to banish the clouds of illiteracy from India, and the whole of South Asia.

Sending 1,00,000 children to schools seemed gigantic, but if each Rotarian decides to send one child back to school, it seems do able. Shaju ended his presentation on a very encouraging note, "There is money available for programs. Tremendous amount of money is being collected from various sources by RILM, which is available to Rotarians and clubs for projects related to literacy. Funds will be no constraints at all." The amount collected by the clubs would be equally matched by RILM.

Vote of thanks was proposed by PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria. He also recalled the various literacy projects undertaken by our club in the past. He thanked PDG Shaju Peter for a very inspiring and informative presentation.



PDG Shaju Peter presents a pin to PP Prem Anand for introducing 3 members in current Rotary year



After vote of thanks, PP B.L. Ramsisaria presents a token of appreciation to PDG Shaju Peter



PDG Shaju Peter presents punctuality award to Rtn. Maj. Gen. R.S. Chopra. Looking on are President Ravi Tuli and Secretary Salil Bali

Fulfilling Rotary Pledge of Swachh Bharat

PRIP Raja Saboo administered a pledge at the District Conference in Dehradun for each Rotarian to spend 2 hours a week on cleaning up Bharat. On March 15, 2015 PP Rtn. Capt. Moni Kahlon ensured that the pledge was redeemed by arranging some of the neighbours

of nearby Block in Phase XI, Mohali to start cleaning their park, which was now turned into a car park. It was time well spent by all. Hopefully it would become a regular weekly routine for them too.

Rtn. Vinod Sobti

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PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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PP Capt Moni Kahlon and his team in action - fulfilling Rotary pledge of Swachh Bharat

Exchange of flags in Germany



On 10.3.15 Rtn. Salil Chopra attended Rotary meet at Frankfurt and exchanged flags with President of Rotary Club of Frankfurt. He met delegates from Sweden, France and Denmark

Activities at General Hospital, Panchkula



On 16.3.15 President Ravi Tuli, VP Dr. Rita Kalra and Secretary Salil Bali participated in tree plantation on women's day. Five workers from GH Panchkula were honored for volunteering in service projects of Rotary International. National sanitation campaign was launched with training of hand washing for housekeeping staff

Rotaract week



Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown in association with our club, represented by Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali and Rtn. Rekha Sawhney, celebrated Rotaract week by organizing two projects - Tree Plantation in Sector 17 Park, Panchkula and second one of creating awareness of not using plastic bags and distribution of cloth bags to vendors in Sector 26 grain market

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Artificial arm provided to 11 year old boy



PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra introduces a disabled boy Anil, fitted with above elbow right artificial arm, who is shaking hand with PDG Shaju Peter



Anil shakes hand with President Ravi Tulsi. Looking on are Secretary Salil Bali, Mrs. Sonia Viridi, Anil's mother, PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, PDG Shaju Peter and R'ann Ranjana Tulsi

In the meeting on March 13, 2015 President Ravi Tulsi informed, "The NGO Sahayta sought our assistance to help a small child who had lost his arm." PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra introduced this 11 year old boy, Anil who had lost his right arm above the elbow due to cancer. Mrs. Kulwant Kaur of Sahayta called up Dr. Vohra who spoke to President Tulsi, who put up the matter before our board. It was discussed if we should give him hi-tech Otto Bock German prosthesis but considering Anil's growing age it was decided for the Indian one, the cost of which is Rs. 12915/-, and Dr. Vohra rounded it off to Rs. 11000/-.

President Ravi Tulsi decided that he and first lady R'ann Ranjana Tulsi would donate the above amount to Rotary Chandigarh Midtown Welfare Trust towards providing the prosthesis to Anil.

Anil was fitted with above elbow prosthesis at Dr. Vohra's Nevedac Prosthetic Centre in Zirakpur. He responded very well to the prosthetic arm and was full of confidence when he attended our club meeting with his mother and uncle.

Sahayta was represented in our meeting by Mrs. Sonia Viridi wife of Dr. I.S. Viridi of Alchemist Hospital and our first lady R'ann Ranjana Tulsi.

Cheshire Homes Awards

PDG Shaju Peter, member of Governing Body and Chair of Awards Committee of Cheshire Homes, Chandigarh, informed about the annual awards programme at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2015, at Bal Bhawan, Sector 23, Chandigarh. Our club supports the activities of Cheshire Homes with participation of our Rotarians. The function will be followed by lunch.

Mr. Vijay Dev IAS, Adviser to the Administrator, UT Chandigarh will be the Chief Guest. Mr. Tilak Raj HCS, Director Social Welfare, UT Chandigarh will be the Guest of Honour.

Birthdays of Spouses

R'ann Dr. Sudha Jain

R'ann Ruchika Sharma

Birthdays of Rotarians

PP Rtn. Ritu Singal

Rtn. Rajiv Aggarwal

Rtn. Tej Mohan Singh

Rtn. Anil Nagpal

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Tavinder & Rtn. J.S. Chopra

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Maj. Gen. R.S. Chopra



March 23
March 23

March 22
March 23
March 24
March 24

March 24



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