

# The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228  
R.I. District 3080

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District Governor  
**David Hilton**

President  
**Mrs. Kanan Diwan**

Secretary  
**Sanjay Bhatia**

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

Volume XXXX No. 49 Dated: June 07, 2016

## PROGRAMME

### Rotary International Convention 2016

Presentation by our team members

Date: **June 10, 2016 (Friday)** Time: **7.00 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

### A talk on Kabir

Our own Rotarian Professor Rana Nayar was the keynote speaker in our regular meeting on June 03, 2016 who gave a wonderful talk on Kabir. Professor Rana Nayar is a translator of poetry and short fiction from Punjabi to English. He has fourteen volumes of poetry and translation works to his credit. He is also a theatre artist and has participated in a number of major full-length productions. He was a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of English at St. Bede's College in Shimla, before joining the Department of English & Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He did M.A. in Philosophy from Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, M.A. in English from Baring Union Christian College, Batala, Punjab, and Ph.D in English in 1988 from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. He is a critic, scholar and translator. Prof. Nayar is a Charles Wallace (India) Trust Awardee, besides having won commendation awards for translation from British Council. In 2007 he won Sahitya Akademi's Indian Literature Golden Jubilee Literary Translation Prize for Poetry. He is also on the editorial board of the prestigious Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Arts.



**Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar talks about Kabir**



**Welcome address by our President Rtn. Kanan Diwan**

In her welcome address President Kanan Diwan who had just returned from the Rotary International Convention at Seoul (Korea), said there were nine registrations from our club for the convention. She said that she and other members would share their memorable experience of the convention in the next regular meeting of our club on June 10, 2016.

President Kanan and PDG Yoginder Diwan visited the construction sites where the toilet project under the global grant received in May, has started in Model High School in Manimajra and it is hoped to complete this facility for girls by the end of this month with seven seats including a special one for disabled



**National anthem by R'ann Indu Luthra and R'ann Dipali Adokar**

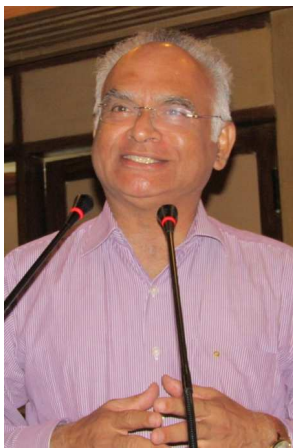
girls. The construction of school rooms is also under progress. She thanked PP Indrajeet Sengupta who had taken the responsibility of looking after the project while they were away to Seoul. She said that we are still short of funds and therefore took this opportunity to thank IPP R.T.P.S. Tulsi and his brother Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Mr. K.T.S. Tulsi for initiating the release of Rs. 10 lakh under MPLAD scheme which is likely to be received by our club shortly.

The President also announced the distribution of certificates to successful students of Home Care Nursing in Sector 15, Chandigarh on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

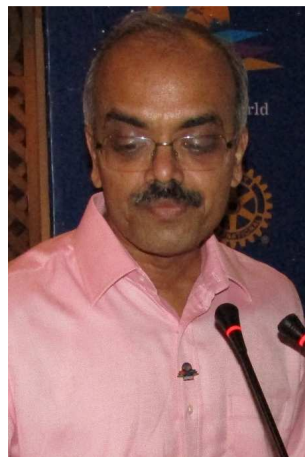
Prof. Rana Nayar started his talk with a remark, "This is my second chance of talking to you. First time I did not have the privilege of addressing you all as fellow Rotarians."

Prof. Nayar expressed his interest in Kabir because he offers basic solutions to problems that are faced in life. He discovered Kabir as not one, but many Kabirs. He was known as a preacher, as a social reformer and for the Kabir Panth. Everyone has some theory on Kabir. Prof. Nayar said, "I found Kabir to be a person of very high character, who is a voice that travels to us and speaks to all those who want to listen to him."

There are many stories about Kabir and his various ideologies. Kabir criticized caste system and declared the equality of all human beings. His early life is shrouded in mystery. He lived either towards the close of the 14th century or in the beginning of the 15th. It is said that he was born of a Hindu widow, and that he was then found and adopted by a Muslim weaver. When he grew up, he became disciple of Ramananda Swami. Kabir promoted a spirit of harmony between the Hindus and Muslims. He tried to emphasize the unity of Islam and Hinduism by preaching those virtues which were common to both religions.



**PDG Shaju Peter offers PHF for \$ 250 up to 30 June 2016. See report on page 4**



**Vote of thanks by Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia**



**Sergeant-at-Arms and Editor PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra clicked by President Nominee Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra**

### Block the dates

1. Valedictory function on 17 June 2016 at CII, Sector 31, Chandigarh, to be hosted by the Board 2015-16.
2. District Award Function on 26 June 2016 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Panchkula, to be hosted by our club.
3. Installation function of President and the Board 2016-17 on 13 July 2016.

Kabir made no distinction between Hindus and Muslims as Allah and Rama were different names for the same supreme being. He emphasized the equality and fraternity of all mankind. Kabir through his couplets reformed the mindset of common people to give them self confidence to question Brahmins. Kabir also denounced mullahs and their rituals. He strongly denounced the false superstitions, rituals and practices in all religions that had no relevance with the upliftment of human soul.

Kabir denounced the caste system. He said that there should be no discrimination on the basis of caste, and rejected the authority of both the Veda and the Koran. He laid great emphasis on the equality of men. He preached a religion of love which aimed at

promoting unity amongst all castes and creeds. Kabir became an object of the wrath of both Hindus and Muslims. His straight forwardness and truthful frankness resulted in both the Hindu pandits and Muslim quazis holding grudges against him. They even tortured and humiliated Kabir which he took with calmness, but he remained firm in his views. It is worth noting that there is also a presence of a substantial amount of Kabir's verse in the Sikh Scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib by Guru Nanak Dev ji, the founder of the Sikh faith.

Secretary Sanjay Bhatia thanked Rtn. Professor Rana Nayar for enlightening us on Kabir. This being a very vast subject Sanjay expressed that we have another session with Prof. Nayar on this interesting topic.



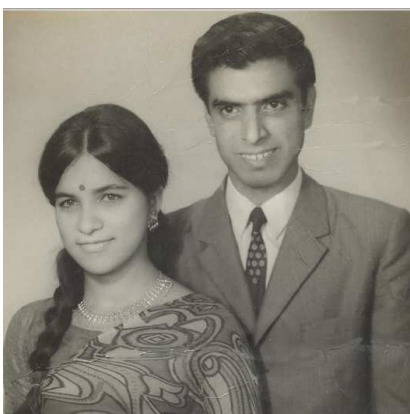
**Secretary Sanjay Bhatia presents a token of appreciation to Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar. Looking on is R'ann Aruti Nayar**



**Wedding anniversary gift for R'ann Preety & PP Rtn. Trilochan Singh Anand from President Kanan Diwan**



**President Kanan Diwan presents birthday gift to R'ann Sudha Puri**



**Who is this charming young couple..... Any guesses?**



**President Kanan Diwan presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Sudha & Rtn. Ashok Puri**



**Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar presents punctuality award to Rtn. Nitin Kapur. Looking on is Secretary Sanjay Bhatia**

## World No Tobacco Day



**A march against tobacco**

Govt. Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh and National Health Mission, UT, Chandigarh had observed World No Tobacco Day on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 with our own PP Dr. Vanita Gupta, Director Health Services, UT, Chandigarh as the Chief Guest. More than 150 children, villagers along with supporting staff of the hospital participated in this programme, which started with a welcome song by school children, followed by a talk by Dr. Prof. Amarjit Singh of GMCH and a small nukkar skit on the topic. Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown also joined the campaign with the Health Department.



**Rotarians distributing refreshments to children**

Our club was represented by VP Ashok Puri, PP Vinod Jawa, R'ann Sudha Puri, R'ann Pushpa Jawa, PP Pallav Mukherjee, PP Deepak Sood, Rtn. Salil Bali, Secretary Sanjay Bhatia and Rtn. Ravinder Jain and our young Rtn. Shashikant Adokar along with his wife R'ann Dipali. The campaign against tobacco was flagged off in Sarangpur village of UT, Chandigarh. All participants were given refreshments which was sponsored by our club and our Rotarians distributed the same to the children. It was a unique, meaningful, appreciable and a successful programme at Sarangpur.

## Mayor of Panchkula joins our Swachh team



**Mayor of Panchkula Mrs. Upinder Ahluwalia joins our cleanliness drive and interacts with public**

Our Swachhta abhiyan at the market of Sector 20 Panchkula on May 29, 2016 was graced with the presence of the Mayor of Panchkula Mrs. Upinder Ahluwalia and two officials of the Municipal Corporation who accompanied us to make our cleanliness drive vibrant and effective. This was the much needed alarm to the offenders, and they were cautioned that if they do not adhere to cleanliness they would face action from Municipal Corporation. Water saving awareness was also promoted. Our new Rotarian Shashikant Adokar along with his spouse R'ann Dipali, VP Ashok Puri, Rtn. Salil Chopra and team of 12 Interactors lead by Kuldeep were delighted to get support from MC of Panchkula. There was also a strong commitment from a trustee of a temple that no garbage would be seen near the temple. Street children too joined us to pick up the garbage. They were served refreshment after doing such hard work under the heat.

<p><b>Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia</b></p>					
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## Welcome our new Rotarian



**Introduced by Vice President Ashok Puri, Shashikant Adokar is inducted as Rotarian by PDG Shaju Peter. He is accompanied by his wife Dipali. Looking on is President Kanan Diwan**



**SHASHIKANT DNYANDEO ADOKAR**  
 TRF ID No. :  
 Clf. : Fertilizer & Pesticides Marketing  
 Address (O) : Sunshine Agri Pvt Ltd  
 SCO 114, Balaji Enclave-1  
 Patiala Road  
 Zirakpur 140603 (Dist Mohali)  
 (R): Flat No 216, Block – C  
 Maya Green Society  
 Highland Marg, Patiala Road  
 Zirakpur 140603 (Dist Mohali)  
 Phone (O) : ---  
 (R) : ---  
 Mobile : 84088 89393, 95618 40690  
 Email : shashikant.adokar@yahoo.com  
 D.o.B : 05.06.1987  
 Wedding : February 17  
 Member from : 03.06.2016  
 Positions held : Member  
 Spouse : Dipali  
 Vocation : Management Professional  
 D.o.B : March 12  
 Children :

### PDG Shaju offers PHF for \$ 250

PDG Shaju Peter was pleased to announce an offer of US\$ 250 to become a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) and that the remaining \$ 750 he will manage with points. This attractive offer is up to June 30, 2016 for Rotarians, spouses, children and grand children.

#### Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Sonia Viridi June 11  
 R'ann Suman Gupta June 14

#### Birthday of Rotarians

PP Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon June 15

### 2017 RI Convention at Atlanta

As reported in the previous bulletin about the special offer of US\$ 265 as registration fee for the 2017 Rotary International Convention at Atlanta on June 10-14, 2017, PDG Shaju Peter made an appeal that we should avail this extra special offer of early registration which is very reasonable, until 06 June 2016.

#### Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Dr. Joginder & PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee June 10

#### Punctuality Award

Won by Rtn. Nitin Kapur

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