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The Mid Towner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

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ASHISH AHUJA**

Programme



Please do attend

FRIDAY - AUGUST 25, 2006

Volume : XXXI No. 08; August 23, 2006

AA GAYA MEHAR MITTAL

Guest Speaker : Mr. Mehar Mittal, Renowned Punjabi Actor & Humorist

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 7.00 P.M.

DINESH KUMAR, RWPF, SHARES EXPERIENCES ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION



Our guest speaker at our meeting held on August 18 was Mr. Dinesh Kumar, a recently returned Rotary World Peace Fellow (RWPF) from the UK, who had been nominated for this prestigious scholarship by our Club in July 2003.

Mr. Kumar, who is the first RWPF nominee to be selected from our club, is a former Resident Editor of The Times of India. He was among a handful of scholars from the 117 students at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford to be awarded a Masters degree in Conflict Resolution with a meritorious high score of 69.2 percent. Mr. Kumar was awarded this scholarship after undergoing a rigorous three-tier selection procedure that spanned four months. Those involved in his selection from our club comprised PP (then President) Prof. S.K. Sharma, President (then secretary) Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, PP (then President-Elect) Pallav Mukherjee and DGE Shaju Peter.

Maj. Gen. Amarjit Singh Kahlon introduced the speaker as a distinguished journalist-scholar who has been a career journalist for 18 years. Although mostly city-bred, Mr. Kumar is an alumni from five Western universities including three from the UK and one each from the US and Australia. In addition, he did his early schooling in New Zealand. His area of specialisation is Indian Defence and Security.

Narrating his experiences, Mr. Kumar said that Mahatma Gandhi

was being regarded as an important figure amongst the academia specialising in the field of Conflict Resolution (CR). Although war and defence studies is widely studied world-wide, issues like CR are new areas for study and research in academia. Recounting the various models of CR, Mr. Kumar also delved at length on the merits and demerits of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions as a model for post-conflict reconstruction. He referred to the South African experience stating that this had however not always succeeded as a model as is evident from similar failed attempts made in South America and other parts of the African continent. He did suggest that perhaps India could make use of this model every time there are riots and sectarian violence.

In response to a question on India-Pakistan relations from one of the members, Mr. Kumar said that he did not visualise an overnight or dramatic change in relations between India and Pakistan. The sub-continent was too steeped in historical baggage. However, he visualised that globalisation and the ongoing information revolution could help the two countries transcend this historical baggage and force a change in bilateral relations in the coming years. As of this moment, however, even this seemed like wishful thinking. He quoted famous Norwegian CR expert Johann Galtung to say that cultural violence (i.e. mental attitudes and perception) remained the biggest challenge that required to be overcome.

Mr. Kumar's rigorous academic schedule included writing essays, attending classes, regularly delivering presentations at class room seminars and practicing and simulating CR. He also wrote a 20,000 word Dissertation as part of the course work on how mindsets have influenced the stand off between India and Pakistan. The mindset in this case is conditioned by religion, ideology and school curricula. While academics took up much of his time while at Bradford, Mr. Kumar attended several Rotary functions in England and was twice invited as the keynote speaker at two different Rotary clubs.

Mr. Kumar once again thanked our club for nominating him and giving him an opportunity to share his experiences as a RWPF



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PP Dr. S.K. Sharma wishes Happy B'day to DGE Shaju



Rtn. Dr. Col.VK. Kapoor receives Punctuality Draw gift from Mr. Singh, a visiting Rotarian from Bihar

with all members of our club.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by PP Pallav Mukherjee and presentation of birthday gift to B'day boy DGE Shaju Peter by the Guest Speaker.

There were, however, no takers for the wedding anniversary gift as the anniversary couple-Editor Rtn.Ashish Ahuja & Ann Ruby Ahuja-could not make it to the meeting. In a lighter vein, it was aptly described by PP Indrajit Sengupta as "missing-in-action". ☺



A memento for the Guest Speaker

Wide Polio Outreach Aids Response to Other Emergencies

Just as it was intended, Rotary's PolioPlus program has become the proverbial gift that keeps on giving. The "Plus" in PolioPlus refers to the global polio-eradication legacy that can help further other health initiatives.

The program's polio eradication infrastructure, built with substantial funding from The Rotary Foundation, has facilitated rapid responses to myriad natural disasters and health emergencies.

"With local knowledge of communities, health systems and government structures, the polio network's technical capacity in disease surveillance and planning of large-scale operations is often at the forefront of international and national relief efforts," says a Global Polio Eradication Initiative report.

For example, polio eradication team of more than 50 epidemiologists and surveillance officers provided some of the first assistance to survivors of last year's earthquake in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. As the group assessed the devastation and relayed news to local governments, it rescued survivors and administered emergency relief and first aid.

Within weeks, the team also organized emergency immunizations against measles, polio and tetanus in disaster areas.

The polio eradication network also has provided crucial technical support during out- breaks of the Marburg virus, Ebola, avian flu and SARS.

Gaston Kaba, chair of the Niger PolioPlus Committee, has witnessed how the polio eradication legacy has addressed Niger's diverse needs. During last year's National Immunization Days (NIDs), health workers and volunteers distributed mosquito nets to combat malaria.

"We started many years ago with administering vitamin A during NIDs," Kaba says.

"The polio program has helped build this country's health infrastructure. In Niger, we are even exporting our expertise through consultancies."

- Source : RI Website

Placement for Handicapped Persons

As already reported (Midtowner Issue 06), we have got 26 handicapped persons employed in a Call Centre at Mohali (a subsidiary of Tata Sons Ltd.). This motivated Mr. Sita Ram Jhavar, husband of Sgt. - at - Arms Rtn. Saroj Jhavar, to offer that he would also employ handicapped persons (any no.---no limit) in his reputed call centre, Excel Callnet, Chandigarh. Salary offered to these persons would range from Rs. 4250/- to Rs. 6500/- per month, depending upon the candidate's merit.

Appeal to all Rotarians : Please do refer such eligible handicapped persons to Pres. Dr.V.J.S.Vohra who would examine the candidates' physical condition & refer them to Mr.Sita Ram for employment.

Donations for Heartline Project

Apropos our "Appeal for Financial Help" in Midtowner Issue 07, for the treatment of Atrial Septal Defect (hole in the heart) of Baby Shehnaz. We thankfully acknowledge the following donations received through our sponsored All Girls' Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown, Dev Samaj College, Chandigarh :



Shehnaz

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Dr.Mrs.Meera Modi | Rs.8000.00 |
| 2. | Ms.Punam Gupta | Rs.5000.00 |
| 3. | Mr.Praveen Kumar Anand | Rs.5000.00 |
| 4. | Ms.Usha | Rs.2000.00 |

Following generous Rotarians have also donated for the cause :

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. | PDG ParmodVij | Rs.5000.00 |
| 2. | Rtn.Munish Jauhar | Rs.2100.00 |
| 3. | PP Rtn.Dr.S.K.Sharma | Rs.500.00 |
| 4. | Rtn.J.S.Bawa | Rs.500.00 |
| 5. | Rtn.Mohinder Singh | Rs.500.00 |
| 6. | Rtn.Santosh Khaitan | Rs.500.00 |
| 7. | Rtn.Daulat Ram Aggarwal | Rs.500.00 |

Thank you dear Rotarians, for contributing towards this gift of life !

Received on e-mail from PDG Prem Bhalla

Dear Ashish:

It was a pleasure to note that this year the responsibility of the club bulletin has been assigned to you. I have been receiving your club bulletin for several years, and read it not only for the information it provides on the excellent work your club is doing, but also for the inspiration provided through editorial comments and quotes. I have been reading your contributions to the bulletin in the past. I already feel you will do a great job of the bulletin this year. Please keep up the good work.

With regards and best wishes,

(PDG) Prem Bhalla

Thank you very much Sir, for your encouraging words of appreciation - Editor.

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Inter City 'Karan Utsav' on The Rotary Foundation

An inter city on The Rotary Foundation will be held at Karnal, as per following programme :

Venue : Sagar Ratna Resort, G.T.Road, Karnal.
Date : Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006
Time : 8.30 a.m. onwards

Registration : Rs.475/- (Single)
Rs.850/- (Couple)

Note : DG Rtn. Dhian Chand has requested all Rotarians, specially the new members to attend this inter city. Please register in large numbers with our office secretary, Mr.V.P.Sharma.



Would You Like to Volunteer ?

As all of you are aware, our District 3080 is hosting the next Rotary Institute at Hotel Taj, Chandigarh, Nov. 17 through Nov. 19, 2006. The Institute is an assembly of Rotary Governors-past, present and future- of the region. The Chandigarh Institute will have delegates from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Approximately 550 delegates are expected to be with us in Chandigarh for the Institute, among whom would be RI President Bill Boyd, Representative of the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation Trustees Ron Burton, RI Director Noraseth Pathmanand and RI Director Elect Ashok Mahajan. The Governor Elects' Training Seminar, GETS is scheduled from Nov. 15 through Nov. 16, 2006.

The delegates will be staying in Hotel Taj, Hotel Mountview and Hotel Shivalik. The inaugural session will take place at Shivalik Public School, Mohali on 17th evening. On 18th

evening at Rock Garden, elaborate arrangements are being made for entertainment and dinner.

To receive the delegates from Chandigarh Airport, the Railway Station, to take them to their respective hotels, reach them to the respective venues and back to the hotels, Tata Motors will be providing 15 brand new buses- each having a seating capacity of 32.

Chairman of the Institute PDG Yash Das is looking for volunteers to take charge of the transport arrangements. Each volunteer is expected to spare 3-4 hrs. of his time on any day of his choice. It will be his or her privilege to enjoy the atmosphere of the Institute and the fellowship and friendship with delegates from all over and the Rotary International leaders.

Those of you who would like to be a part of the Institute may give their names to DGE Shaju Peter.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rtn. Chiranjiv Singh
Rtn. Rakesh Jain



Aug. 25
Aug. 27



Rtn. Vijay K. Gupta

Aug. 29

PUNCTUALITY DRAW :

Won by Rtn. Dr. Col.V.K. Kapoor

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