

The Midtownner

2020-21

Rotary
Chandigarh Midtown



Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown
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Rtn. Ramesh Bajaj

President
Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

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Editor
PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

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Volume 45 No. 33 Dated: 16 February 2021

PROGRAMME

Welcome District Governor
Rtn. Ramesh Bajaj
For his Official Visit to
Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

Physical Meeting

Venue: Abhinandan Hall, third floor, The Aroma
Sector 22, Chandigarh | Time: 6.30 p.m.
Date: February 21, 2021 (Sunday)
Please note the change in date and venue

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Farewell to PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter

[Click here to watch video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12BPEWjrA5s) - <https://youtu.be/12BPEWjrA5s>

In our hybrid meeting on February 12, 2021 President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia welcomed a large number Rotarians and R'anns (age no bar!) of our Club at the physical platform in Gymkhana Club, Sector 01, Panchkula (social distance norms well observed) and some of us were on the zoom virtual platform to bid farewell to PDG Shaju Peter, who is shifting his location to his home state, Kerala and join his 97 year old mother, Mrs. Mariakutty Peter.

President Sanjay informed about the sad demise of our senior Rotarian Om Parkash on 10 February 2021. One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect. PDG Shaju Peter said, "Om used to be a regular visitor to PGI bringing succour to the terminally ill and the abandoned. Many of us were woken up on our birthdays with inspiring Urdu couplets of hope and good wishes! Let his soul rest in peace."

PDG Shaju's farewell message: "A chapter in my life is about to come to a close! A long one at that – 42 years, more than half of my journey called life! Of your love and affection, of your support and goodwill I have received in abundance all these years. It's utterly futile to attempt to express my gratefulness in words.



PDG Shaju Peter

I became a Rotarian in 1987 and learned like each one of you that real happiness is helping others and that it's in the nature of Rotarians to have the sensitivity to be moved to tears when you look at the deprivation of those around you or even in far distant lands like the plateaus of Uganda or the urban slums of Madagaskar.

I do recall with gratitude the support I received in the darkest hour of my life, Lovy's transition to eternity, from each one of you, especially President (2017-18) Dr. Rita Kalra, PP R.K. Luther and Urmil, Ashok and Sudha Puri, Prem and Indu Anand, PP Subhash and Veena and Renu Chopra, and the many others who stood with me in my bereavement.

14 long years ago you gave me the honour and privilege to serve as the Governor of 3080. Whenever I think of that opportunity that Rotarians of this District gave me, I tend to reflect on the core value of diversity of Rotary. You and the Rotarians of this District transcended the barriers of region, religion, language and all that define distinctive identities in choosing someone from the backwaters of God's Own Country as their Governor. The choice you made, the selection they did, according to me was a momentous celebration of one of our core values.

Of all the lessons Rotary taught me perhaps the most profound was the power of working together, being a member of a team and the natural progression towards leading a team. These years also taught me at the same time that to err is human and that I am nobody to sit on judgment. That's the job of a higher power and not of an ordinary mortal like me. If human beings didn't have the power to forget and forgive, you'll agree with me, life would be an unending misery.

I'm grateful that all of you empathize with me on my decision to go back to my roots. Had Lovy been with me or Nancy my daughter were able to relocate herself from Gangtok to Chandigarh, I don't think I would have contemplated this move. As things stand, I am having the burden of overseeing the construction of two houses in my lifetime – the one Lovy and I built in Panchkula 23 years ago and the one presently under construction, just 1.5 km away from my ancestral home where I grew up and where my mother lives even today, just 25 km South of Kochi. Whenever you are next in Kerala, I would like you to remember you have a home away from home.

I must thank President Sanjay, Secretary Shuchi and PP R.K. Luther for getting us all together in a physical setting after almost a year of the pandemic so that I can tell each one of you how grateful I am for your love and affection, your kindness and consideration towards me all these years.

Let God be with you! Thank you."

[\(To watch PDG Shaju's speech live, click here\).](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12BPEWjrA5s)

Donations to our Welfare Trust are exempted u/s 80 G of IT Act

President Sanjay said life is like a see-saw. If it is down now, it is likely come up soon! So be optimistic. Good things are always there.

Following Rotarians wrote to the Editor expressing their appreciation, affection, felicitations and good wishes to PDG Shaju Peter.

PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta: "Shaju – A Multifaceted Persona. Unique in every possible way. Committed, dedicated and most knowledgeable Rotary Leader. He breaths and dreams Rotary. Rotary is his driving force. A way of life. He values Rotary Values. He practices Four-way-test. Above all, he is a good human being. He is loved by Rotarians all over. Rotary Institute, Chandigarh was held in 2006. Shaju brought out an anthology of inspirational stories-Kindle The Spark. First Indian RI President Nitish Laharry had given this as his Rotary theme for the year 1962-63. I treasure this anthology. I have shared these inspirational stories with the Trainee Judicial Officers. These stories shape their minds. Still another collection of inspiring stories of Peace Through Service. This was the Rotary theme of 2012 given by RI President – Sakuji Tanaka. The occasion was Rotary Institute, Hyderabad of the year 2012. This collection distinctly brings out that Service to Humanity is a Weapon of Peace. It acknowledges how Rotary Service has hugely contributed towards Peace around the globe. One genuinely believes and feels, why Rotary has not received so far Nobel Peace Award. It is difficult to catalogue the huge contribution of Shaju to Rotary family. We had never thought that Shaju would ever move from Chandigarh. Partings are sad. We are parting to meet again. We wish you a meaningful journey."

PP Rtn. Ajit Gulati: "Sought permission from PDG Shaju that from now onwards we would wish to address him as 'Our Governor' instead of PDG. My association with Shaju has been for the past 39 years and it was in the year 1982 when we were next door neighbours. It was then that I gauged his brilliance and qualities of a genius. This prompted me to join Rotary Midtown in the year 1989 since Shaju was a member of this Club. I wish to attribute my success as the Event Chair of numerous events of the Club and at the District Level to the guidance, methodical planning and logistics support of Shaju, my Councillor. We would miss your hearty laughter and the warmth with you met everyone by calling his/her first name. While wishing Shaju a glorious second inning back in his home State Kerala, I wish to convey apologies to him on behalf of all of us for the not too pleasant events in our Club in the recent past and knowing for sure that Shaju who has a large heart would forgive and forget and move in life. Would wish to request Shaju to attend our Virtual Meetings every Friday so that we continue to have his presence amongst us as 'Our Governor'."

PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra: "PDG Shaju Peter will always remain a part of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown. Shifting to Kerala, his home state, Shaju will join a Rotary Club there and that Club is heading to get a great asset in Shaju. He will be like India's Kohinoor in London. Shaju will always be a Kohinoor of Chandigarh Midtown with the Club in Kerala. As Shaju will continue to be Director (Marketing) of Daftech, he will visit Chandigarh quite often and attend our meetings. Just for Shaju's sake all future Presidents are requested to continue with hybrid meetings so that Shaju can join us virtually. We shall always remember Lovy as a lovable friend and a guide to all Anns and Rotarians of our Club and we cannot forget Nancy who as a kid never missed any meeting! Shaju has written a beautiful letter to us, with invitation to visit Kerala. I have never visited Kerala but now Shaju will be my greatest attraction and I shall surely visit Kerala with my family whenever the opportunity arises. Good luck Shaju. We shall always remain in touch," **As Editor of our bulletin I would look forward to getting Shaju's news from Kerala for the good that he would be doing there or whatever project he may undertake in future.**

AG PP Rtn. Rita Kalra: "As mentors, PDG Shaju and Lovy were a tremendous support in my journey as Rotarian of Chandigarh Midtown. They have been perfect examples of inspiration and strength. Leading by example, connecting with members and arguments with assertion, Shaju had solutions to every problem. I was trained at District 3080 Leadership Academy where Shaju was head faculty. I had a great learning, living and leading experience. Although Lovy was very encouraging and appreciative, Shaju has been hard task master with insight for constructive criticism thus balancing each other. Onam and Christmas were the festivals we celebrated with them every year and enjoyed home cooked delicacies prepared by Lovy and Christmas cake from Kerala. The spark you ignited will continue to challenge us to be better, stronger and higher every day. I express my gratitude for those life changing experiences and transformative engagements. Thank you Shaju, it means a lot. We respect your decision to be with your family and friends. We wish you the very best, good health, long life, with many more opportunities to serve people through Rotary. Its not good bye forever but Aurevoir - Bye till we meet again!"

PP Rtn. Ashok Puri: "For me Shaju is my ideal and he is responsible for my Rotary values with service to humanity. We got lot of appreciation from Lovy who was fond of Sudha as her friend. Shaju has been good inspiration during my 11 Rotary years and tremendous Rotary knowledge in leadership academy where I was also student along with PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra. Your dynamic presence in club meetings and valuable advice will surely be missed by us. Shaju will always remain in our hearts. We wish you a wonderful life with your mother and family in your home town at Kerala. Good bye Dear Shaju, Remember us and we will also be in touch with you."

Rtn. Indu Luthra: "To be friends with Lovy and Shaju was just tremendous. All are aware of Shaju's virtues, no doubt he is compassionate, prudent, benevolent and intellectual persona, and he takes interest even in small matters. We have got very sweet memories of the time we spent together. Now I am very happy that he is going to his home town to spend time with his loved ones and family. No doubt, Shaju has left an incredible mark not on Chandigarh Midtowners but also in the literary arena of the city beautiful. I used to share his melodious verses with my intellectual friends and they really appreciated. It is sad to bid farewell, so I will say Hello. Distance does not matter in this digital age. We will be meeting you Shaju ji on Zoom frequently. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours."

Rtn. Col. J.S. Chandoak: "PDG Rtn Shaju Peter has justifiable reasons to shift to Cochin to look after his respectable mother. On the other hand, Rotary Chandigarh Midtown family wishes that the one and only, larger than life, Shaju could continue at Chandigarh. Yes, the problem is there. All the same, here is a simple solution. It's all in a lighter vein for ever-smiling Shaju, who is always in great humour. During the Second World War; on occasions, famous top Generals were required concurrently at many War fronts. So one ingenious way adopted was to substitute a look-alike officer as a "double" of that General. This was done in case of Field Marshal Montgomery also. Hence in our context, all we need is to have Shaju Peter's "Double". So one Shaju could go to Cochin and the other one to remain with us in Chandigarh Midtown. Besides many praiseworthy traits of multi-talented Shaju, I was highly impressed by the way he autographed the Book 'Peace' at a supersonic speed. Kudos to Shaju ji. AAPKA JAWAAB NAHIN."



Rotarians who felicitated PDG Shaju at Gymkhana Club: PDG Rtn. Yoginder Diwan, PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria, PP Rtn. Ajit Gulati, PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta, PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta, PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta, PP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, IPP Rtn. Salil Dev Singh Bali and Rtn. Col. J.S. Chandoak. [Click here to see the gratitude, love and affection they showered on Shaju - https://youtu.be/12BPEWjrA5s](https://youtu.be/12BPEWjrA5s)

Invocation



President Sanjay Bhatia invited First Lady Rtn. Ritu Bhatia for the invocation, summarized as, "Every one of us that changes and makes a difference in our families and our neighbourhood will have a ripple effect and eventually change the whole world."

Club Assembly



L-R: Directors - Rtn. Nitin Kapur, Rtn. Anupam Jain, PP Rtn. Kanan Diwan, PN Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra and Rtn. Kulbir Singh Bhatia

Assistant Governor Zone 03 Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra complimented the Club for the reports about the projects and activities undertaken in the current Rotary year 2020-21, presented by Director Club Service Rtn. Nitin Kapur, Director Vocational Service Rtn. Anupam Jain, Director Community Service PP Kanan Diwan, Director International Service Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra and Director Youth Service Rtn. Kulbir Bhatia.



Felicitation and gifts were in abundance and it was a great fellowship. A very well deserved farewell to PDG Shaju. He will never be far away from us, just a phone call away – same mobile number and same email id and he continues to be the Marketing Director of his company – Daftech which will keep bringing him to Chandigarh as and when required.

The event was a grand success. Thanks to President Sanjay and team. [For more photos of the event posted on facebook, click here.](#) [Those who have missed this meeting or want to see again on the youtube, click here - https://youtu.be/12BPEWjrA5s.](https://youtu.be/12BPEWjrA5s)

Farewell to PDG Shaju from Virtual platform



Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua, Rtn. Indu Luthra, Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain, PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra with R'ann Indu Vohra and PP Rtn. Ashok Puri with R'ann Sudha Puri

PDG Shaju at Nahan



PDG Shaju Peter visited Rotary Polio Booth at Nirmal Hospital

Civil Hospital, Panchkula – 09.02.2021



Antenatal care for 25 mothers by giving protein diet. Present: AG Dr. Rita Kalra and Rtn. Shuchi Thakur

Acknowledged with thanks

Peermuchalla Project

Rtn. Sanjay Kalra	Rs.10000
Rtn. Kulbir Bhatia	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Bhavmit Chandoak	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Jeeten Bhambri	Rs. 5000
PE Rtn. Salil Chopra	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Arjan Singh	Rs. 5000
PP Rtn. Prem Anand	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Nitin Kapur	Rs. 5000
PP Rtn. T S Anand	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Jagvinder Bawa	Rs. 5000
Rtn. Anupam Jain	Rs. 5000

Spouse's Birthday

R'ann Shashi Gupta 19 February



Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Ranjeet and Rtn. Srirambir Sandhu 20 February
R'ann Shivani and Rtn. Nitin Kapur 24 February

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Rtn. Salil Chopra

PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter

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