

# THE MID TOWNER



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Editor  
**Ashish Ahuja**

Club No. 15228

## PROGRAMME

Vol. XXXIII No.8 August 20, 2008

### "Business Meeting"

Friday, August 22, 2008

Time: 7.00 PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## Independence Day Celebrations

Our last week's meeting fell on Friday, August 15, the Independence Day, with most of our members preferring freedom even from the meeting, maybe due to the "hat-trick" holiday package of Aug. 15 (Friday), Aug. 16 (Raksha-bandhan) & Aug. 17 (Sunday)!

Nevertheless, the handful of members who made it to the meeting, celebrated India's Independence Day in it's true spirit – the spirit of giving, the spirit of upliftment of poor children and the spirit of empowering tomorrow's youth through education – you will soon know how! All attendees were proudly wearing the tri-color brooches – the pride of being an INDIAN!

The celebrations were marked by the presence of children from the Theatre Age group (a group for the upliftment of slum children), led by their founder, an emancipated humanitarian do-gooder & philanthropist, Zulfiqar Khan. Learn more about this group in the paras to follow.



First, after the National Anthem, Pres. Saroj invited PP Col. Gill to share some more information about Membership in Rotary, as August is the Membership Development Month.

### Rotary Information- Classification

Continuing with the subject of Membership, PP Col. A.J.S. Gill brought out the following information on the topic of Classification, in a very interesting & interactive session of a few minutes.

Every person must be allotted a Classification before the he / she is inducted as a member of a Rotary Club. Classification is defined as a word or a phrase that describes a separate and distinct business or professional service rendered to the community. The business or profession may be current or past.

There should always be a Classification Committee in a Rotary Club, just as we have one. The Committee must maintain a classification register that should have the available classifications in the community as well as the ones which are vacant in the club. The community should be surveyed to complete this register by end of August or as soon as possible. RI has laid down a limit of five persons, or ten percent of the total membership of the club (if the club has more than fifty members) with the same classification to prevent groupism and to ensure a wide spectrum of professionals and businessmen in the club.

In the next session, the procedure for inducting a new member shall be discussed.

This was followed by a colourful performance by the children from Theatre Age, waving the cloth sheets



Wonderful dance performances by children of Theatre Age Group



Philanthropist Zulfiqar explains his organization's activities

of orange, white & the green colours and dancing to the patriotic notes of Vande Mataram. Later, they also presented a dance to the beats of the song Hey Baby, much to the amusement of the audience !

Mr. Zulfiqar Khan, (or Zulfie, if we may call him that !) then introduced his Theatre Age group to the members. This group was established by him way back in 1992. Zulfie himself is a gold medalist from the department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh and has all the ideals of a true Rotarian. He is deeply involved in the upliftment of slum children & does it through a programme of building up their self-esteem by helping them act in plays & dances which are publicly performed.

With Theatre Age today, Zulfiqar has ensured that around 30 rag pickers, boot-polish boys & labourers are given an education – with some of them having gone up to 10+2 ! They meet in a room donated by a school in Sec 24, Chandigarh, where they are instructed, educated & fed two meals everyday.

How does he do all this ? Believe it or not, but most of the funds are generated via collection & sale of raddi

and making envelopes ! He also appeals for Child Sponsorship, which makes a difference in a child's life & your participation results in benefits like improved education, healthcare, food, clothing and other extra-curricular activities. It only takes Rs. 5000/- a year to cover these costs for one child, which is just over Rs. 400/- per month !

Zulfiqar's verbal presentation struck an emotional chord with some of the Rotarians & they instantly offered to sponsor one child each, for a period of one year to start with – PP Pallav Mukherjee, Rtn. Mrs. D.K. Singh, Jt. Secy. Ritu Singal, Rtn. R.S. Sihota, Rtn. Ashok Sharma, Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, Rtn. Om Parkash, Secy. D.R. Aggarwal, Rtn. R.K. Luther & Rtn. Santosh Khaitan – more names expected to be added in this list.

**AN APPEAL-YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

India is a home to world's largest number of child labourers in the world. Sadly, if we look around we can easily find children being employed as helping hands for domestic and commercial purposes.

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PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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Gifts for Theatre Age children



Rtn R.K. Luther presents a memento to Zulfiqar



The 'Punctual' Editor - Rtn. Ashish Ahuja

make it happen by extending your helping hand towards noble causes like these. In the words of Helen Keller, "The world is full of trouble, but as long as we have people undoing trouble, we have a pretty good world".

You can volunteer to teach children, conduct workshops, impart knowledge & provide counseling sessions. You can sponsor a child to cover his / her educational, clothes, healthcare & other expenses at just Rs. 5000/- per year. For donating as meager a thing as raddi, you just have to call at 98151-45453 and it will be collected from your doorstep. What more convenience can one ask for !

Learn more about Theatre Age group at [www.theatreage.com](http://www.theatreage.com)

It was commendable of President Saroj Jhawar to invite these children from the slums to present their skills at the Club. All of them were presented a gift as a token of appreciation & encouragement from the Club. These gifts were sponsored by Rtn. Om Parkash & Pres. Saroj herself. It also gave the club members an opportunity to get involved in their emancipation!

- with inputs from PP Pallav Mukherjee & PP Col. AJS Gill.

## Pin-Up & Get Rewarded

Our Director Club Services, Rtn. Prem Anand requests all members to wear their Rotary pins or Rotary theme pins during the weekly club meetings. Those observing regularity in wearing these pins will be suitably rewarded.

Sounds simple no ? So go ahead.....wear that Rotary pin in all the regular meetings (no harm done even if you keep wearing it in your office as well !), feel proud of being a Rotarian & of course, get rewarded too !

Have any complaint / suggestion / general communication to be addressed or attended to by the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh ? Just e-mail it at [mc172@in.com](mailto:mc172@in.com).

It shall be ensured by PP Pallav Mukherjee, who is also one of the Municipal Councillors, that your message gets across to the right person & is attended too !

Thanks, PP Pallav, we are sure this gesture of yours will help in addressing the grievances / problems of the city residents to a great extent !

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## India Shines - and so do Indians

It is not a story but a true incident that happened in America. An Indian man walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. He tells the loan officer that he is going to India on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Indian man hands over the keys and documents of new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the title and everything checks out. The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the Indian for using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral against a \$5,000 loan.

An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later, the Indian returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi-millionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow "\$5,000" ?

The Indian replies : "Where else in New York City can

I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return"

Ah, the mind of the Indian...this is why India is shining!

On e-mail from PP Rtn. Sunil Mishra, PHF District Chair, Vocational Fellowship RI. District 3030

## Know Your New Member

Name : Dr. Anil Singla  
 Clf. : Medical Practice - Orthodontist  
 Address : SCO 11, Sector 20-D,  
 (Clinic) Chandigarh - 160020  
 (R) : 2144, Sector 21-C,  
 Chandigarh - 160022  
 Phone (Clinic) : 2714618  
 (R) : 5052144  
 Mobile : 98146 02144  
 E-mail : dr.anil\_singla@yahoo.co.in  
 D.o.B. : 16.07.1963  
 Wedding : December 02  
 Member from : 01.08.2008  
 Spouse : Dr. Asha  
 Vocation : Medical Practice  
 D.o.B. : February 15  
 Children : Avisha & Aayushi (D)  
 Athrav (S)

### Birthday Greetings



Rtn. Tejbans S. Jauhar  
 IPDG Rtn. Shaju Peter  
 Rtn. Chiranjiv Singh  
 Rtn. Rakesh Jain

August 22  
 August 23  
 August 25  
 August 27

### Wedding Anniversary Greetings



R'ann Ruby & Rtn. Ashish Ahuja

August 23

### Punctuality Draw



Won by Rtn. Ashish Ahuja

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