



# The Midtowner

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Club Number : 15228

**Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080**

R. I. President  
**Kalyan Banerjee**

District Governor  
**Manpreet Singh**

President  
**Raj Kumar Luther**

Secretary  
**Amarjit Singh**

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

Volume XXXVI No. 03 Dated: July 19, 2011

PROGRAMME

Is Dieting Good for Health

Chief Guest :

Ms. Sonia Gandhi

Chief Dietician, Fortis Hospital, Mohali

Friday, July 22, 2011

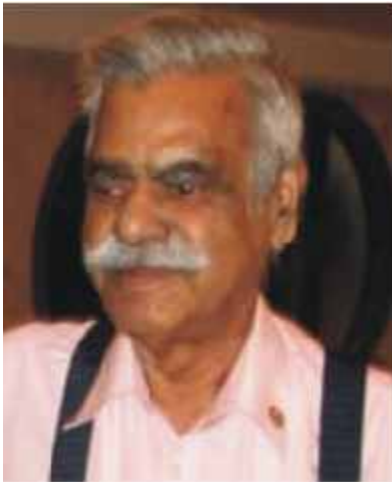
Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## **Service Above Self Awardee Rtn. Suraj Handa**

We are deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Rtn. Suraj Handa on 12th July 2011. His body has been donated to PGI as per his wishes. Our heartfelt condolences to R'ann Kanta Handa and all family members.

In the club meeting on July 15, 2011 two minutes silence was



True Rotarian & PHF  
Suraj Handa

observed as a mark of respect to the noble soul. Glowing homage and tributes were paid by Rotarians. PDG Shaju Peter said, "Suraj Handa had done amazing amount of work for the lepers and he will always be remembered as a true Rotarian and the person behind establishing Kusht Ashram in Sector 47. In 1991-92 his service to the community was recognized and he was given one of the most prestigious award, 'Service Above Self' by Rotary International."

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PP T.S. Anand said, "Suraj Handa was a Charter member of our club and very dear to us. He dedicated his entire life to humanity. He also kept a constant touch with Leper's Colony. He was involved in so many other projects for which his services were recognized by RI."

Rtn. Arjan Singh said, "Suraj was always full of life and he was a wonderful person. He enthused joy into whatever he did, and the great thing he did was the Kusht Ashram."

PP B.L. Ramsisaria said, "Suraj ji was a highly dedicated person, who would like to get involved in every thing." He recalled his services and the great interest that he had for the Kusht Ashram.

Rtn. Kanan Diwan said, "I would like to pay homage to the great soul." She emotionally admitted that Suraj Handa was a great inspiration for her and her husband PDG Yoginder Diwan.

President R.K. Luther said Suraj Handa never wanted to share his problems with others. But he spread happiness and would always say, 'shukar hai', when ever any one enquired about his health. He would forget his ailment and would try to resolve the problem of others. The message that one gets from Suraj's positive attitude is that if you want to overcome your problems, help others in solving theirs!

## **Requiem to a Rotarian By PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee**

His heart (made of gold actually) finally gave up – albeit gradually, almost trying to will itself to go on, hold on for a few days more, a few hours more! His blood – with more Rotary cells in it than red blood corpuscles, and the white ones to fight disease, finally failed to reach various muscles and other vital organs of his body, letting them go limp.

And thus came to an end the journey of the thousands of miles that the blood and the body of this Rotarian had

travelled. For over eighty years now, this one man army has been in the battlefield – taking on everything single-handed! Or as some would say – he was almost singularly adamant! In my book – that's a positive.

These and other thoughts kept coming to my mind as Jogi and I followed the hearse on Suraj's last journey from his sector 18 home to the Post Graduate Medical Research Institute in the late hours of Sunday just past midnight. Even

on his last journey he had his way – to the research labs instead of the Crematorium in Sec 25.

From being there more than half a century ago when the villagers tied up to a tree the Chief Administrator (Mr. P.N. Thapar) of the yet to be built city for trying to ask them to sell off their lands to the Govt. to establish the city of Chandigarh, to faithfully recording all the happenings in those heady days when India had just gotten over its throes of Independence, and a painful partition, he was right here in the heart of the city as one of the oldest – as one of the few pioneer photographers, when they were a rarity! As were Hasselblads, Rolleiflexes, and Agfas.

Most people would have a family portrait, or even that rare wedding photo (brown sepia those days) and Suraj Handa would be almost part of that family – turned out in their Sunday best on the grassy lawns.

Coming to what would be Chandigarh, he initially shackled up with a clutch of Architects (in the nucleus of the village of Bajwara) – also pioneers, who were here in town and I've known some of them. Great men! The stories he told me were revelations of those times – when the city was more of green fields and sandy hillocks! There was more village than town in Chandigarh those days!

Somewhere along the line, Suraj accosted a lone leper – discarded by his family and thrown into the trash! It might sound funny, especially in those times, but Suraj picked him up, took him home, got him washed, cleaned, bathed, fed – and the next thing you knew was that there was an IDEA in his head. Which later earned him the highest Rotary Award – “Service Above Self” by the then RI President.

The Leper colony below the Industrial Area II – a desolate area those days – saw the germination of what turned to be one of the winning projects of our club! Oh, one forgot to mention that Suraj, along with a few stalwarts still in our club – were the charter members of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown in 1977. The Charter President – Dr. B.D. Gupta, still visits our club.

He was also the secretary or president of the All India Photographers Assn. – and was known as one of the tough ones. This toughness was a trait acquired in the RSS shakas – which he joined at the tender age of 14 – in the year 1931. He graduated from the Prince of Wales College much later – in 1946. The partitioning of the country saw him jump right into the middle – and he and his team were instrumental in escorting (he was a macho, mustachioed tough redneck those days) hundreds of Hindu and Sikh families from Sialkot back to camps in Jammu. Remember, there was a program of sorts going on – and the famous book by Khushwant Singh – Train to Pakistan, delineated that.

Suraj was hired by the Indian Army to photograph their battles – in the Dera Baba Nanak and Rajouri sectors. I guess he had an affinity for tanks and guns. This was both in 1965 and 1971.

We don't know how he found the time to get married to Kanta, in 1957.

The list of memories most of us have of him would fill several books – and memories are all that we have left of him today!

God bless his soul – and that we try and look for that star in the heavens that will be him!

## District Awards 2010-11

Assistant Governor of our Zone for Rotary year 2010-11, Rtn. Praveen Goel graced our Club meeting on July 15, 2011 to present the District Awards received by our club for 2010-11. He was welcomed by President Rtn. R.K. Luther.

“The District Awards function 2010-11 was organized on

26th June 2011 at Hotel Hometel, Industrial Area Phase 1, Chandigarh”, said IPP Rtn. Prem Anand. This was hosted by Rotary Club Chandigarh Central. Large number of prizes were given in one go to the Club Presidents in the District Awards ceremony, and it was announced by IPDG Rtn.

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Madhukar Malhotra that these awards be presented to the awardees in the club's weekly meeting.

As President for 2010-11, Prem remarked, "Every year our club wins large number of District awards. This year was special to us all". He had collected the following awards which were distributed in our club meeting;



Rotary maintains continuity! From left: Secretary 2010-11 Deepak Sood, President 2010-11 Prem Anand, AG 2010-11 Praveen Goel, President 2011-12 R.K. Luther and Secretary 2011-12 Amarjit Singh

1. RI Presidential Citation to Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown
2. Certificate of Appreciation to President Prem Anand in recognition of outstanding contribution to PPI programme
3. Best Club Secretary to Rtn. Deepak Sood
4. Best Club Treasurer to PP B.L. Ramsisaria
5. Award of Excellence to PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra
6. Best Club Bulletin – Midtownner (18 bulletins edited by PP Indrajeet Sengupta and 33 by PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra)
7. Best Club Project – Aasra, GMCH-32
8. Citation for efforts of Govt. Model Higher Sec. School, Sector 46, Chandigarh for support to fight Polio

9. Certificate of Appreciation to Govt. Model Higher Sec. School, Sector 46, Chandigarh
10. Hosting of DTTS
11. Certificate of Appreciation to PP B.L. Ramsisaria
12. Certificate of Appreciation to PP Indrajeet Sengupta
13. Hosting Pre Conference Dinner
14. Best Vocational Service Project Award - Home Care Nursing
15. TRF draw for those contributing \$100 or multiple – Rtn. D.R. Agarwal (got a Laptop!)
16. Award to PP Dr. S.K. Sharma as Assistant Governor

Those who received PHF recognition were; Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua, Rtn. Salil Bali, Rtn. Rajesh Mahajan, Raman Gill S/o PP Col. A.J.S. Gill, Shaina K. Gill grand daughter of Col. A.J.S. Gill, Narbir S. Kahlon S/o Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon, R'ann Sudha Puri and Karan Mehan S/o PP Anil Mehan.

Before giving the awards, AG 2010-11 Rtn. Praveen Goel appreciated the good work done by our club in all the avenues of service under the leadership of IPP Prem Anand.

Those Rotarians who were not present in the Valedictory Function on June 24, 2011 were also handed over their awards. Those awardees who were not present in the meeting on July 15, 2011 may contact Secretary (2010-11) Rtn. Deepak Sood.

A letter has been received from PDG Chetan Aggarwal, congratulating IPP Prem, "for the wonderful work done during the last year and laurels won." He also wished President Luther and his team, "meaningful and purposeful year 2011-12 to keep the club's traditions high in doing good welfare community service and reach within to embrace humanity."

Inner Wheel Club Chandigarh Midtown IPP Deepa Sahib Singh and IW PDC Neeru Khattar honoured IPP Rtn. Prem Anand and Secretary (2010-11) Rtn. Deepak Sood for the support IW got from our club during the year!

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# Well Done Karun!

Karun Deep S/o PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep & R'ann Maniki Deep has been awarded the fellowship of Institute of Actuaries, London.

## Shaju with Rotarians of Panipat Midtown

President Raman Aneja of Panipat Midtown was the star of the District awards function. Described as the Best President of the District he walked away with the Rolling Trophy for the Best Club (bracketed with Ambala). Raman went back to his home club and decided to have an award ceremony in his own club, Aabhar Dil Se on June 30, 2011, the last day of his term.

The honour of giving away the awards at the ceremony held in Kohinoor Resorts went to PDG Shaju Peter. He drove straight to the residence of PP Vijay Jawa for a cup of tea where he was received by the senior leaders of the club. Later

at the function, he congratulated Raman and his team for extending themselves in service and truly building the community in Panipat and bridging continents in very many ways.

Closing his remarks Shaju said, "Everyone in this hall has the power to treat everyone else in the club with respect, kindness and understanding and in so doing to raise the culture of Panipat Midtown to one of the best in District 3080." Among the audience was PDG Pramod Vij who extended home hospitality to Shaju for the night.

## Prayers

Prayer cum Chautha Uthala of Rtn Suraj Handa was held on 15th July 2011 at Arya Samaj Mandir Sector 7, Chandigarh to pay homage to the departed soul.

In everlasting memory of Mr. Mandeep Singh, S/o R'ann Patinder & Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh, who was taken away from us by cruel hands of destiny on 26/06/2011 in USA, Kirtan was held on 16/07/2011 at their residence.

## Change of Addresses

Please note the new Residential addresses as under :-

Rtn. Chitrans Aggarwal - 313, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh-160009  
Rtn. Praveen Aggarwal - 1013, Sector 27-B, Chandigarh-160019

## Change of Mobile Numbers

Please note the new Mobile numbers as under :-

Rtn. C.J. Rai - 99888 51231  
Rtn. Ashok K. Puri - 78377 00784

## Donations for Club Projects - Acknowledged with Thanks!

Rtn. Comdr. A.S. Nagra Rs. 1000/-  
Collected through Rtn. Ashok K. Puri from:  
- Mr. Kishni Lal, Rs. 5000/-  
Mahesh Coop. Society, Chamba

- Mr. Manish Krishnan, USA Rs. 5000/-  
- Mr. Manish Seth, USA Rs. 5000/-  
- Mr. Arvind Sharma, Contractor, Chamba Rs. 5000/-  
- Rtn. Anil K. Puri, USA Rs. 5000/-

## Birthday of Rotary Anns

R'ann Archana Mathur  
R'ann Rajneet Sandhu



July 27  
July 28

## Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Anupam & Rtn. Rakesh Jain

July 23

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