

# The Midtowner

2020-21

Rotary  
Chandigarh Midtown



Club No. 15228  
R.I. District 3080

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown  
View online: [www.rotarychdmidtown.org](http://www.rotarychdmidtown.org)

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Volume 45 No. 13 Dated: 29 September 2020

## PROGRAMME

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion**

**Chief Guest:**

**Mx. Dhananjay Chauhan**

**Member, Transgender Welfare Board - Chandigarh**



**Zoom Meeting ID:**  
**6291653178**  
**Password: 15228**

**Date: Friday, 02 October 2020**  
**Time: 6.30 p.m.**

## 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?

## Condolence Meeting Past Rotary International Director Rtn. Yash Pal Das

Click here to watch on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/au5rb8OyTD8>



**Last visit of PRID Yash Das to our Club on 27 June 2019 as Chief Guest of our Valedictory function. Click here**

With heavy heart we held a condolence meeting on 25 September 2020 on Zoom platform to pay homage to our beloved Past Rotary International Director Yash Pal Das who passed away on 22 September 2020. He is member of Rotary Club of Ambala and was RI Director in 2011-13. He is CEO of a family owned car dealership company. Before joining his family business he had served as an officer in the Indian Merchant Navy. He and his wife, Manju ji are Major Donors. He was our District Governor in 1993-94 and is a second generation Rotarian. His father late PDG H.K. Das was also District Governor of 3080 in 1967-68.

In our virtual meeting President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia acknowledged the presence of PDG Rtn. Yoginder Diwan, PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter, Guest from California (USA) Rtn. Dr. Sheila Hurst and a prospective member Mr. Rishikant Jha who has regularly attended our last three meetings.

After the meeting was called to order by Sergeant-at-Arms PP Rtn. R.K. Luther, a moment of silence was observed as a mark of respect for PRID Yash Das. President Sanjay Bhatia said the demise of PRID Yash was a very shocking and sad news. It was very hard to believe and it was a big shock to all of us. When Sanjay joined Rotary, Rtn. Yash was the RI Director who was expanding the scope of Rotary with full dedication. He was a thorough gentleman in the Rotary world.

PDG Shaju Peter said the void left behind by Yash Das has saddened us all so deeply. He recalled, "My association with Yash goes back to 1987 when I became a Rotarian of Chandigarh Midtown. His abrupt departure has shocked us all." Shaju showed a collection of his album through an audio visual presentation as a tribute to memory of PRID Yash which is a profile of his life work and to show how close he was to Shaju and Chandigarh Midtown. He would always remain a perennial source of inspiration for us and an example of ethics, integrity, love and compassion. [Click here to watch PDG Shaju's video on facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/100000474380823/posts/5144161575609604/\)](https://www.facebook.com/100000474380823/posts/5144161575609604/), in addition to the YouTube link given above.

PRIP Rtn. Raja Saboo commented on PDG Shaju's video presentation, "Very touching bringing the memories of the remarkable personality who has left us. Your presentation is equal to best of professionals."

PDG Yoginder Diwan said this was a sad occasion and that he could not believe when PDG Shaju informed him about this sad news. It was such a big shock. He recalled his over 30 years of association with PRID Yash Das, having attended many functions together, and found him always smiling and a soft spoken person. He was a great man because he lived the ideals of Rotary. PRID Yash was fully dedicated to any cause he took up whether it was International, National or Club assignment.

Rtn. Dr. Sheila Hurst of USA shared her experience of working and learning from PRID Yash. As RI Director he inspired her on many aspects of life and public health that benefited the world. He created special emphasis on tuberculosis. She also appreciated the hospital at Ambala for the community which inspired the world. Sheila said he worked dedicatedly to improve the world health. She also admired his contribution at Rotary International Conventions.

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



**Glorious tributes to the great personality by PDG Shaju Peter, PDG Yoginder Diwan, President Sanjay Bhatia, Rtn. Dr. Sheila Hurst, PP Rtn. Harish Sethi, PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta, PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee, PP AG Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra and PP Rtn. Ashok Puri**

PP Dr. Rita Kalra, who was recently appointed as the District TB Coordinator by PRID Yash Das, expressed her shock on his untimely demise. Rita described him as Stalwart of Rotary fraternity, outstanding leader and a mentor. He was a noble soul. He will be remembered with great respect, love and affection for inspiring and touching many lives.

Rita also showed a video on 'Rotary End TB Campaign' in memory of PRID Yash Das as he was closely associated with our Club for TB awareness programs.

PP Ashok Puri said he could not believe the sad message he got about Yash ji, who was a jewel of our District 3080 and he was a great source of inspiration for Ashok since he joined Rotary. He was a very good guide and a great motivator. During his year as our Club President Rtn. Ashok received lot of encouragement from him and appreciations during PRID Yash's last visit to our Club for the valedictory function.

PP Pallav Mukherjee recalled his 34 years of association with Rtn. Yash Das and said he is the person to emulate. He was an officer in Merchant Navy before he joined his family business. He was a gentleman and all his good qualities made him a great person.

PP Harish Sethi said PRID Yash Das was a great human being. He shared his golfing experience with Yash ji, "I had the privilege of working with him in Rotary. I used to play golf with him for a number of years." In fact he was a great support in our efforts for Organizing District Rotary Golf tournaments for a number of years. He would always take part and would be leading a team of 16-18 golfing Rotarians from Ambala. He used to ensure that all of them reached our Golf Club around 7.30 a.m so that we could start the tournament in time. As long as he had no private work, official work or Rotary assignment he would be playing at Ambala. This would keep him fit.

He would always come forward to organize and help in getting welfare Projects of Rotary. One such Project was Reconstruction of schools which were razed to the ground during storms in Rudraprayag. He raised funds for this major project and used to visit the site regularly during its execution.

We were all wishing that Yash ji fulfills our hopes and dreams of becoming the Rotary International President. Destiny turned other way and we lost him on 22 September, a day before his next birthday. May God bless his soul.

PP Balram Gupta's Tribute: PRID Yash Pal Das was born on September 23, 1946. He was no more on September 22, 2020. Lived for full 74 years. He joined Rotary in 1971. He grew with Rotary for almost half a century. Rotary was in his blood. His father was the District Governor for the year 1967-68. He carried his father's DNA. He himself became the District Governor in 1993-94. He became RID in 2011. What a meaningful and hugely contributory Rotary Journey. He rose from being the Rotary member. He served Rotary at all levels but one. We were keenly looking forward to that --- The ultimate culmination. This beautiful journey got short-circuited. So suddenly. So sad.

Yash Das was the darling of Rotary coparcenary. What a delight to hear him speak. What a joy to read what he wrote. His monthly pieces in Rotary News while he was the RI Director enriched Rotary Literature richly. When you re-read them now, you actually re-live them. His actions in Rotary were inspiring. His thoughts were motivating.

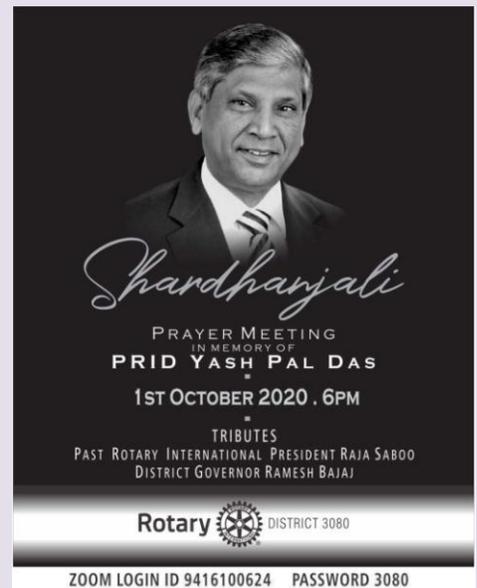
Rotary in India has completed a full century. Yash Das played his Rotary strokes for almost half a century. Like the opening batsman. A friend, an accomplished trainer and a leader of Rotary. He was an epitome of Rotary 4 way test. He was a blend of Rotary values and Rotary service. He always breathed Rotary. Rotary was his staple diet. Rotary was his sustenance. He enjoyed Rotary. It was a way of life for him. He was passionate. Dedicated and committed to Rotary.

Shaju on the occasion of Zonal Rotary Institute in Chandigarh in 2006 prepared an anthology of inspirational stories- Kindle the Spark. Yash Das in his message quoted the English Poet Emerson – Hitch your wagon to a star. He encouraged to garner some courage to make your dreams come true. Yash Das believed that 'Giving is Living'. When you give in any mode, the return multiplies. It satisfies you. You feel happy when you see others happy.

I am taking the liberty of striking a personal note. I wrote a short piece : Is It The Truth ! It covered a part of my journey. The piece had been written in Rotary spirit. I was happy to share the same with Yash Das. I got his response through an e-mail. I quote, "I read it with great interest and it truly reflects the Rotary spirit particularly the 4 way test. I am sure you must feel extremely proud as you reflect back in time and revel in the fact that so many of your students have risen to such prominent positions in the judiciary. We in Rotary are equally proud of you". It was both humbling and motivating.

My Rotary family, we would miss him. More than, we can actually express. What a feeling of grief. But also a feeling of gratitude. How much he contributed. How well he served. He was UNIQUE. What grace. What elegance. What poise. His wisdom. His humility. His humanism. His empathy. All this and more had huge influence on Rotary family and beyond. Yash Das is no more. His fragrance continues. May his tribe multiply. May his soul rest in peace. May we all continue to follow and strengthen his legacy.

Response of PRIP Raja Saboo to Balram Gupta's Tribute "Dear Balram, I am deeply touched by your tribute to Yash. You have truly described, nay painted his profile, so succinctly and so correctly that no one else can. I did not know you have been close. He was a star and now has gone up among the heavenly stars."



## Nation Builder Award - Click here to watch on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/81YiBJmG5QU>

T-E-A-C-H program of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) recognizes the outstanding teachers through "Nation Builder Award", which includes teacher training and recognizing them for their services for building the nation and future of students.



**Chief Guest**  
**Ms. Keshni Anand Arora**



**Guest of Honour**  
**Ajay Madan**

On 26 September 2020 our club held a virtual ceremony to recognize 38 teachers of Chandigarh tricity. Ms. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana was the Chief Guest. District Governor Elect Rtn. Ajay Madan was the Guest of Honour.

PP Dr. Rita Kalra introduced the chief guest, Chief Secretary Ms. Keshni Anand Arora, who in her address congratulated the awardees, thanking the teachers for their sense of duty. She said they are the greatest nation builders. The future is in the hands of teachers for which they have to play a very important role. The chief secretary also expressed her appreciation for our club for inspiring the teachers by honouring them. She also thanked all the Rotarians for making the society worth living which can make India proud.

President Sanjay Bhatia formally introduced the guest of honour, DGE Ajay Madan, who said RILM is working very hard for the literacy movement and in the coming years we are planning to eradicate illiteracy in India like we eradicated polio from India. Rotary International President Elect Rtn. Shekhar Mehta is taking tremendous interest in RILM, which is doing wonderful job under his leadership. RILM also aims for sending children back to schools. RILM has made various modules for Government of India which is going to be televised in 12 channels of Doordarshan in near future for class 01 to 12 and will be translated in different languages also. He also congratulated all the teachers for being presented national builders award by our Club.

Global Grant Happy Schools is our very significant project with Partners: Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, Rotary Club Southpoint (Jacksonville), Florida, USA and The Rotary Foundation (US\$ 61,500/).

Good work has been done in 38 schools as per their requirements; desks in 5 Schools, 'Padho - Bharat' Libraries Setup in 13 Schools, specially

designed school bags given to 20 Schools, hand washing stations in 18 Schools, Water Cooler with R.O. system in 16 Schools, Sanitary Napkin dispenser and incinerator in 15 Schools and Construction / renovation of toilet blocks in 5 schools.

Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown adopted Govt. Primary School Peer Muchalla (Zirakpur) as signature project in Rotary year 2018-19. This school was in a very bad condition with strength of 137 students and we spent approximately US\$ 30,000 raised through CSR and other sources and upgraded the school by adding additional class rooms, additional toilet block, mid-day meal kitchen and dining area, playground with swings, tile flooring and white wash in entire building and many other facilities. As a result of efforts of our club for renovation / up gradation, the strength of the school has now increased to 330. Request has again been received from school authorities for further extension and other facilities which our club will be undertaking this year.



**Dr. Harinder Jit Kaur, Prof. Rana Nayar, PP Amarjit Singh and Secretary Shuchi Thakur**

Formal vote of thanks was given by PP Amarjit Singh. He thanked the Chief Guest Ms. Keshni Anand Arora for her gracious presence and inspiring words. He also thanked DGE Ajay Madan for joining our virtual platform and motivating us. Amarjit also explained the important component of RILM, that is, the T-E-A-C-H program : T – Teacher Support, E – E-learning, A – Adult Literacy, C – Child Development and H – Happy School.

This virtual event of Nation Builder Award was a grand success with meticulous planning and execution by Literacy Chair Rtn. Dr. Harinder Jit Kaur and Event Chair Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar. It was a great team effort under able guidance of President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia, PP Rtn. Kanan Diwan, PP Rtn. Amarjit Singh, AG PP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra and Secretary Rtn. Shuchi Thakur. Awards were announced by R'ann Guninder Dua and R'ann Indu Anand. Rtn. Suman Gupta recited a wonderful poem which was applauded by all present.

## Hybrid Webinar on TB awareness dedicated to PRID Yash Das

Nikshay Diwas held on 24th September at Civil Hospital Panchkula was dedicated to the memory of PRID Yash Das, Chairman, Rotary National TB Control Committee. One minute silence was observed as mark of respect. Chief Guest DG Rtn. Ramesh Bajaj paid rich tributes to him and highlighted his dedication towards TB eradication in India.

District Health Authorities Panchkula in partnership with Rotary Chandigarh Midtown organized this hybrid webinar on covid and TB for MDR TB and HIV TB Co infected patients for follow up diagnostic checkup and resolving issues due to disruption in service due to unavoidable situation. Awareness talk by chest physician, nutritionist and physiotherapist was organized by the hospital.

Rotary will resume NSP wherein the kit with protein supplements, sanitizers and face mask will be distributed to beneficiaries. This event was planned to support the cause of TB elimination from the country by engaging and motivating Rotarians and the volunteers of IMA.

From our Club President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia along with AG and Rotary District TB Coordinator PP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra were physically present at the Civil Hospital. Other members from our Club on the virtual platform were PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, PP Rtn. Kanan Diwan, PP Rtn. Ashok Puri, PE Rtn. Salil Chopra, First Lady Rtn. Ritu Bhatia, Rtn. M.S. Manaktala, Rtn. Indu Luthra, Rtn. Renu Chopra, Rtn. Anupam Jain and Rtn. Anjali Chhabra.

Others present in this webinar were: Dr. Paraminder Singh District TB officer, Ms. Aparna Dietician, Mr. Sirosh Sharma Physiotherapist, Ms. Lalitha District Coordinator for National TB Elimination Program, Rotarians of Zone 3 Clubs Rtn. Yashica Jain, Rtn. Deepak Sardana and Rtn. B.S. Kapur.



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PP Rtn. Deepak Sood  
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Birthday with grand children. Rotary birthday gifts of nice umbrella and tea pots

**Rotary Sarai, GMCH – 32**

PP Rtn. Prem Anand approached President Sanjay Bhatia and PP Kanan Diwan for some immediate maintenance of Rotary Sarai in Government Medical College, Sector 32, Chandigarh for repairs of floor of the main hall and toilet. This major work which was started on 8th September and finished on 15th September was done under PP Prem Anand's supervision. He thanked President Sanjay and Kanan ji for the prompt action. Rs. 57000 was spent for the purchase 38 boxes of tiles, 14 bags of cement, toilet seats etc.

**Menstrual Hygiene seminar**



For women of Bhaskar Colony by Rotaract Chandigarh Midtown on 23.09.20.  
PP Dr. Rita Kalra, 35 Ladies attended and President Rtn. Himani was joined with 3 Rotaractors

**Acknowledgement with thanks**

**Donations for Club Projects**

- Rtn. Vijay K. Gupta Rs. 5000
- Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor Rs. 5000
- Rtn. Suman Gupta Rs. Rs. 5000
- Rtn. Dr. Harinder Jit Kaur Rs. 2500
- Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain Rs. 2500
- PP Rtn. Prem and R'ann Indu Anand Rs. 1100
- Rtn. Kulbir Bhatia Rs. 1100

**Birthday of Spouses**

- R'ann Gulshan October 02
- R'ann Neena Setya October 03
- R'ann Gagan Meet October 04
- R'ann Kalpana Aggarwal October 07

**Birthday of Rotarians**

- PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma October 03
- Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor October 03
- Rtn. Rajesh Mahajan October 04

**Wedding Anniversary**

- R'ann Ranjana & PP Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi October 03
- R'ann Surinder & Rtn. Col. J.S. Chandoak October 03

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