



# The Mid Towner

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**Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown**

**R.I. President  
WILLIAM (BILL) BOYD**

**District Governor  
DHIAN CHAND**

**President  
DR. V.J.S. VOHRA**

**Secretary  
R.K. LUTHER**

**Editor  
ASHISH AHUJA**

## Programme



*Please do attend*

FRIDAY - JANUARY 19, 2007

Volume : XXXI No. 29; January 17, 2007

## Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh

- An Interactive Discussion

Guest Speaker : Ms. Harjinder Kaur, M.A., B.Ed., Mayor, Chandigarh M.C.

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 6.30 P.M.

## The Chariot Moves



On Magha 1, 2063 of the Vikram Samvat, translated as Sunday, January 14, 2007 of the Christian era, designated as "Makar Sankranti", two events occurred which must have brought gladness to hearts of the Malayalee speaking people. The first, formal and solemn, took place in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, a Keralite, took oath of office to oversee the dispensation of justice to this nation. The second, boisterous and emotional, took place in Yamuna Nagar, when an over 600 strong Rotarian community bid "Bon Voyage" Shaju Peter, another Keralite, marking the beginning of his journey to administrate the Rotary International District 3080 in North India, for the welfare of mankind.

The Rotarians of Yamuna Nagar, catalyzed the warmth of the occasion, with immaculate arrangements at Hotel Sapphire. It must be acknowledged that the attention to detail of President Kapil Gupta and his team, counseled by the experienced Past District Governor Subhash Garg, and, District Governor Nominee Satish Saluja, now dubbed "the patriarch", was beyond compare. The occasion was more like

a marriage function, with the flower bedecked horse drawn *buggy, the dhol, the bhanga*, et al. Feel it from the photographs. The timing of the entire function, as well as its presentation was perfect. They say, the way to a man's heart, is through his stomach. The menu, and the food, was delightfully delicious.

Speaking on the occasion, in his own grandiose manner, Raja Saboo, Past Rotary International President, acknowledged the focus of dedication to responsibility of Shaju, based on his recent experience at the Zone Institute. An analytical mind, and incisive execution of the translated task, was his hallmark. He warned Rotarians that during his year, non-performance would not be accepted. The time was short, and the tasks challenging.

Incoming Chairperson of Inner Wheel District 308 Samira Saluja, made an excellent presentation while introducing Shaju and Lovy. In fact, she showcased several unknown facets of Shaju and Lovy, quite to the amazement of the audience, including their first meeting, which, till now was known only to a close limited few.



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Shaju rose to speak to a thunderous applause. His speech, in his typical resonant voice, and immaculate English, was a demonstration of his incisive mind and kind heart. He spoke of the available DDF, and urged Clubs to utilize this in a meaningful way to serve the community. He acknowledged the matchless past performance of his predecessors, and hoped that Rotarians of the district would be kind during his year too, to allow him to leave behind a richer legacy. In his own forthright way, he acknowledged that differences did exist. But, he said, the greatness of man, particularly Rotarians who had dedicated themselves to serving mankind, lay in "forgiving and forgetting". The impact was instant, for members of several clubs, till now divided, came over as one, to felicitate both Lovy and Shaju. Lastly, he spoke eloquently, of the need to extend love, for it was love, which would bind the Rotarians of this district for service to the community.

For those of you who missed this amazingly heart warming and boisterous function, ask the "baratis" - Tochi Anand, J.S. Bawa, Veena and Subhash Bindra, Ram Swaroop Chandgothia, Balbir Channi, Rajinder Goel, Atul Grover, R.P.S. Gulati, Bir and Ajit Gulati, the surprise couple of the day, Dr. Vanita Gupta, Shashi and Dr. Balram Gupta, Santosh and Kesho Ram Gupta, Suraj Handa, Munish Jauhar, Mrs. Saroj Jhavar, Capt. Moni Kahlon, Raj and Col. V.K. Kapoor, Neeru and Raj Khattar, Meera and Jagmohan Lal Mahajan, Maharaj Baksh Singh, Krishna and Om Prakash, B.L. Ramsisaria, Shraddha and A.K. Sachdeva, Sandeep Sandhu, Dr. Dinesh Sehajpal, Mala and Indrajeet Sengupta, V.P. Sharma, all led by the "karta" President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra and Indu.



## Emotional "Bon Voyage" to Lovy and Shaju

A packed Sheesh Mahal, has always been an indicator of either an interesting function, or, of a fellowship. On Friday, January 12, 2007, it was for both. Quite interestingly, no one grumbled that the meeting began almost an hour late! And everyone was willing to await the arrival of the giants of the Club to bid "Bon Voyage" to the first District Governor Elect from Chandigarh Midtown in 30 years.

By the time the meeting began, following the "coffee and cake" ritual, there was a palpable change in atmosphere from bonhomie to emotional.



When Shaju and Lovy took their seat on the dais, his ringing laughter seemed to have faded a perceptible shade, and, in its place, was a serious look. It appeared that he was feeling embarrassed at the prospect of facing the club now as District Governor, than a simple active Past President. Humbleness is the hallmark of this couple.

BLR - "The Guru", introduced Shaju statistically, listing his personal and Rotary achievements chronologically. He struck an emotional chord, when, he described how Shaju, still not a Rotarian, went beyond his duty, to help a bereaved Rotarian, which led to his being proposed and inducted into Rotary by none other than his friend, and one time Secretary of this Club, Chander Mohan Khera. Chander, is Past President of Wallaton Park Rotary, Nottingham, with which we have established sister club relationship.



Suraj Handa, the Club's "Service Above Self" Awardee and a Charter member, now an Honorary Rotarian, was his deeply emotional self, while speaking in his now panting voice. Shaju and Suraj were neighbors, when Shaju first came to Chandigarh. Naturally, he had fond memories of their association.

Indrajeet, inducted into the Club during Shaju's tenure as President, looks up to him as his mentor, is a personal friend, and addresses him as "chief", spoke with great fondness of his family's visit to Shaju's village. He recalled his meeting with Shaju's mother, fondly addressed as "Ammachi", and spoke of his transformation from a "leader in his profession" to a "leader of humanity". Shaju, he said, was a person with "secular world vision", a phrase Shaju had earlier used to describe another Rotarian of this



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Club, R.N. Dasgupta, popularly addressed as the "Commander".

Gurdip, of the "Plaza Carnival" fame, spoke gloriously of Shaju and wished the couple on their "journey of learning". Neeru Khattar, Past District Chairperson of IW District 308, spoke of Shaju as a wonderful person, who would help any one in need. Mrs. Indu Luthra, joined in to wish Shaju well.

Past President Jagmohan Lal Mahajan, spoke heart warmingly of the one-point program during his tenure to project Shaju as the fittest Governor-candidate. It was for the first time during his tenure that a resolution to field Shaju as a Governor candidate was taken. What followed is history, but the resolution was received with great cheer.

Foundation Alumni Sandeep Sandhu, who will lead this Club during Shaju's tenure, spoke glowingly of his ethical standards, which endeared him to Shaju. He declared, that he was proud to serve Rotary under his Governorship.

These emotional speeches had a "goose pimple" effect on our new member Mrs. Ritu Singhal, who, in an impromptu act,

went up to the dais, and declared that she volunteered to undertake any task delegated to her by the Club. She had never seen a spectacle like this before, and this inspired her. Welcome, Rotarian Ritu!

When Shaju rose to address the Club, you could have heard the cling of the pin fall. With an emotion choked voice, he fondly remembered his association with the "giants" of the Club, who are either now no more members, or, who have now passed away, naming them individually. He spoke of the love and affection he had received from members of this Club, who had accepted him as one of their own. He recalled how each president had entrusted him with tasks, which had enriched his experience of Rotary, and had finally enabled him to become a District Governor. The tasks ahead, he said, were challenging, and, without the support of his home club, it was impossible to achieve the exacting tasks. He needed the wishes of the club now, more than ever before.

He officially declared the appointment of PP. B.L. Ramsisaria as District Secretary and PP. Indrajeet Sengupta as District Editor during his tenure.

The Captain, as is expected, always has the last word. A witty person, Moni Kahlon, enlivened the emotionally drained heart members, with his humorous speech of thanks.

Shaju won the Punctuality Draw the second time in succession. It augurs well. Luck favors the brave. Dr. Vanita Gupta and Harish Sethi presented mementoes to Shaju and Lovy on behalf of the Club.



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:**  
PP Rtn. D.P. Khandelia

Jan. 21



**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS:**  
R'ann Sarita & Rtn. P.K. Vasudeva Jan. 24  
R'ann Monika & Chitranjan Aggarwal Jan. 25



**PUNCTUALITY DRAW :**  
Won by DGE Shaju Peter

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