



The Mid Towner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

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District Governor
DHIAN CHAND

President
DR. V.J.S. VOHRA

Secretary
R.K. LUTHER

Editor
ASHISH AHUJA

Programme



Please do attend

FRIDAY - MAY 11, 2007

Volume : XXXI No. 45; MAY 9, 2007

Illegal Immigrations from Punjab - A Human Tragedy

Guest Speaker : Ms Vijaya Pushkarna
Special Correspondent, The Week

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 7.00 P.M.

SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW GENERATION

PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta introduced the Guest Speaker for our club meeting on May 4, 2007, PP Rtn. Praveen Goyal, a Sr. Dy. Advocate General, Punjab, who completed his law from Panjab University in 1982 and joined Rotary Club Chandigarh in 1988.



PP Praveen Goyal addressing the Rotarians

Rtn. Praveen Goyal started his talk by expressing his pleasure on being introduced by his law Professor, Dr. Balram Gupta, and then quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt who had said; "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build the youth for the future". Rotary's service to the rule had been aiming at the very same thing.

The slogan "Every Rotarian - An Example to Youth" aims that, Rotary wants Rotarians to be role models for the future generation. Now the question arises that what is new generation? It can be divided into the age groups of 0 to 5, 5 to 14, 14 to 18 and 18 to 30.

In 1915, Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary had said; "Not the least interesting attribute to Rotary is its youth. Youth is full of possibilities".

The 1916 R.I. convention appointed a six-man committee on "Work Among Boys." In those days boys were considered as tomorrow's business and community leaders. As the time passed, this idea was changed to 'Youth Service'. The 'Boys Work' idea was quick to get acceptance among Rotary clubs.

In 1920, the Rotary Club of New York City coordinated the first "Boys Week," a week long festive event designed to bring the public's attention to the boy and his problems.

In an editorial in The Rotarian in 1933, R.I. General Secretary Chesley R. Perry wrote, "Many Rotarians have for some time thought.... that the (world's) young ladies yearn for recognition and encouragement of their achievement just as keenly as do their brothers." That year Rotary changed "Boy Week" to "Youth Week."

Rotary's service to new generations begins with the birth of a child. Polio Plus and help for other immunization programs, Literacy Program, Interact, Youth exchange, RYLA, Scholarship, Vocational Guidance, Rotaract, etc. are exclusively aimed at new generation. Preserve Planet Earth program is an attempt to hand over their planet without degradation.

The idea of 'International Youth Exchange' originated in U.S.A. in 1934, when Rotary Clubs of Georgia, U.S.A. and Liverpool England swapped youths for a summer's stay in their changed 'homes' though first documented exchanges were initiated by The Rotary Club of Copenhagen in 1929, but involved only European participants. From this humble beginning, the programme has grown by leaps and bounds. Currently,

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thousands of youth cross their country borders every year for a short stay or for stay for one full academic year in some other country to get a friendly world exposure. In 1970, R.I. Board approved guidelines for Youth Exchange. In 1972, R.I. Board made it an official programme. The R.I. Board held in November 1994, reviewed the Youth Exchange programme and termed this as a "highly valued programme."

This programme of swapping youths between clubs of distant countries was a significant project.

R.I. President 1998-99 James Lacy said, "Imagine stepping off the airplane into the arms of strangers - and then going home with them. Imagine the stress of coping with an unfamiliar language, alien customs, a totally different way of life. Within a few weeks, you begin to feel slightly more comfortable; within a few months, you even feel at home. And by the end of the year, you have a new dilemma - how to say good-bye to friends that you will remember and cherish for a life time. Such is the magic of Rotary's Youth Exchange Programme."

Youth Exchange is not confined to Rotarian families alone. The host and guest families and the exchanges could be non-Rotarians also. R.I. favours exchange of handicapped students too.

Generally this is an exchange programme in which a family or R.I. District sponsors a candidate (usually a school student of 15 to 19 years) to some other family in some other country who hosts the candidate and reciprocates by sending another youth to the former family on similar lines for one academic year (long term exchange) or less (short term exchange) with the purpose of advancing international understanding.

Our district recently hosted a student from Brazil. Another student is coming from Taiwan. We have selected 5 for Germany under Short Term. Selected 2 for U.K. under Fine Arts programme. Selected 1 for International RYLA.

Term Interact, coined from two words - International and Action, was formed in 1962 when R.I. President was Nitish Lahary from India.

Melbourne High School, Melbourne, Florida, U.S.A., had the unique opportunity of establishing the world's first interact clubs in the year 1962. Soon Interact became very popular. As many as 177 clubs were formed in just one year in 24 countries. The statistical column of the Rotary World of April 2007 reports the World Interact strength as 2,48,929 in 10,823 clubs spread in 104 countries!

Though only boys were allowed to join initially, later girls were also admitted. The members were between 14-18 years of age and were upto pre-degree level.

An Interact Club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary Club in its territory and should be endorsed by the District Governor. R.I. then recognizes and certifies the club.

Rotaract was formed in the year 1968, coined with two words - Rotary + Action, within the age group of 18 to 30. Their motto is Fellowship through Service and can be sponsored by a Rotary Club. There are two types of Rotaract Clubs i.e. Community based and Institution based.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) started in 1959 in Australia and became an Official Program of R.I. in 1971.

PP Rtn. Praveen Goyal concluded with the words of R.I. President Elect Wilfred J.

Wilkinson, "As Rotarians, we don't just sit back and talk about loving other human beings. As Rotarians, we demonstrate that love, and we share that love, through helping each other."

Our club's New Generation Chairman, Dr. Nitin Mathur attended the meeting with a new member, Rtn. Rajesh Vaidya and another new one, the latest inducted on April 21, 2007, during the DG's Official Visit, a young Rotarian from Rotary Club of Albany, New Zealand, Rtn Raj Jain. When Raj decided to come back from Auckland to Chandigarh, he conducted a search on the google for 'Rotary in Chandigarh' and found our club's website on the top of the list. This was enough for him to take a decision to become a Chandigarh Midtownner !



Rtn. Raj Jain presenting a memento to PP Praveen Goyal



President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra receives the flag of Rotary Club of Albany from Rtn. Raj Jain

Vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Raj Jain, for the informative talk given by PP Praveen Goyal.

✍ - President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

**Meeting of Friday - May 18, 2007 pre-poned to:
TUESDAY - MAY 15, 2007**

WCS Literacy Project

Chief Guest : RI President Elect Wilfrid Wilkinson and Ann Joan

Venue : Govt. Museum, Sector 10, Chandigarh

Time : 9.00 A.M.

Our club, in collaboration with Rotary Club of Gold Coast - Lake Success, New York, RI District 7250 and the Rotary Foundation is gifting approximately 17,000 text books, valued at US\$ 22,000, to the economically disadvantaged children of classes 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th of the Govt. Schools of UT, Chandigarh. This project is being implemented through D.P.I. (Schools) UT, Chandigarh.

DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter and IPP Rtn. Er. R.K. Goyal, who initiated this project in the last Rotary year which got through during this year, have been chalking out a befitting programme by holding a ceremonial function on May 15, 2007 at 9 am at Govt. Museum, Sector 10, Chandigarh. RI President Elect Rtn. Wilfrid Wilkinson shall be the Chief Guest. Ann Joan shall also grace the occasion. All members of our club, with their spouses, are requested to be present in this function, to meet the RI President Elect and also to 'Lead the Way' to share the Rotary spirit.

The function would be followed by refreshments.

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32 FREE CATARACT OPERATIONS AT SAHARANPUR EYE CAMP

At Dr. Ajay Saighal Eye Hospital, Saharanpur, 32 poor patients have already been operated upon for cataract under the joint project of all the Rotary Clubs of Saharanpur, in collaboration with Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, Rotary Club of Wollaton Park, Nottingham and Rotary Club of Castle Donnington, UK. Our club is bearing 2/3rd expenses of this humane project. The operations are still continuing and about 50 surgeries are expected to be done on the completion of the project in a day or so.

On 5th May 2007, District Governor Rtn. Dhian Chand & Ann Meena visited the Eye Camp. PP Rtn. Manpreet Singh of Rotary Club SAS Nagar, Mohali was also present. Under the able leadership of Assistant Governor Rtn. Rajesh Kapoor

and the guidance of District Chairman - Health Committee, Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta, all Presidents of Rotary Clubs of Saharanpur, Rtn. Ram Rajiv Singhal (RC Saharanpur), Rtn. Anil Pandav (RC Central), Rtn. Kuljeet Singh (RC South), Rtn. Baljit Chawla (RC Midtown), Rtn. Sudhir Miglani (RC Continental) & Rtn. Lalit Sharma (RC Sarsawa) joined hands to take up this noble project of restoring eye sight to the needy.

- President Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Get Well Soon

Rtn. Atma Singh Cheema has undergone a spinal surgery at Apollo, Ludhiana. We wish him a speedy recovery.



DISTORTED TELEGRAPHY



Telegram # 1

A daughter sends a telegram to her father on her clearing B.Ed exams, which the father receives as: "Father, your daughter has been successful in BED."

Telegram # 2

A husband, while he is on a business trip to a hill station sends a telegram to his wife: "I wish you were here." The message received by wife: "I wish you were her."

Telegram # 3

A wife with near maturing pregnancy goes to railway station to return to her husband. At the reservation counter, while her turn came, it was the last ticket. Taking pity on a very old lady next to her in the queue, she offered her berth to the old lady and sent a telegram to her husband which reached as: "Shall be coming tomorrow, heavy rush in the train, gave birth to an old lady."

- Contributed by Rtn. J.S. Chopra



PUNCTUALITY DRAW :

Won by Rtn. Raj Jain



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS:

R'ann Madhu & Rtn. Suresh Dhawan May 11

R'ann Santosh & PP Rtn. Kesho R. Gupta May 11

R'ann Anu & Rtn. Sanjay Singhal May 12

R'ann Indu & Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra May 13

R'ann Chanchal & Rtn. C.J. Rai May 17

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