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Programme: - FRIDAY – June 20, 2008

Volume XXXII No. 51 June 18, 2008

## Youth Exchange Program of the RI

Speakers : Ms FERNANDA HICKMAN from Brazil to India  
Ms DEEPIKA WALIA from India to UK

Please stay for  
Cocktails & Fellowship  
- Courtesy Rtn. Anil K. Khanna

Venue: President Hotel , Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time: 7.00 PM

### The Group Study Exchange Programme Builds Character and Personality

The advantages and the wide cultural exposure that a GSE visit provides to its members came to the fore in our weekly meeting of 13 June 2008, in a presentation by a GSE Team Member, sponsored by our Club, that visited RI District 2120 in Southern Italy recently.

The President, Rtn Sandeep Sandhu, before the presentations, announced that he has a good news, and the good news- Club's new micro loan project, a WCS project with clubs from Italy, has been approved by the Foundation and we should be getting the money soon. He said that he is throwing this project open to our District 3080. He also requested the Midtowners to sponsor needy persons to get loans from the Club. He further clarified that the loan amount, as in the Club's existing micro loan projects, will be interest free and the limit has been raised to Rs. 20,000.

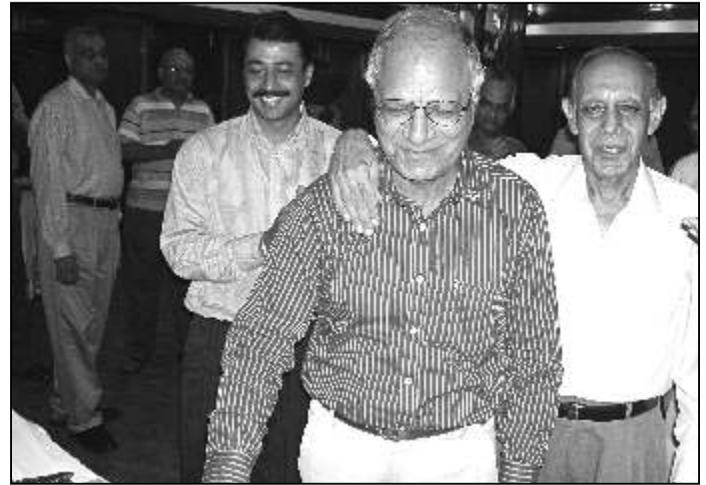
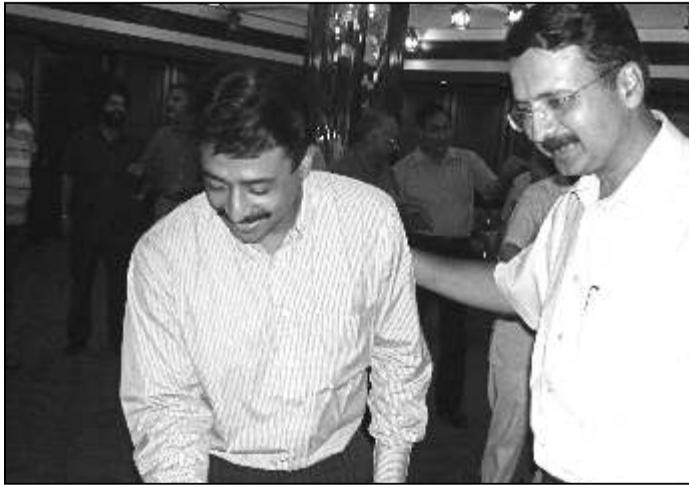
PP Rtn Dr Balam K Gupta introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr. Aman Chaudhary, who was a member of the GSE team that visited RI District 2120, in Southern Italy, recently. Our Club that has an impressive record of sending the sponsored members on our GSE Teams, continuously for the last few years, sponsored him.



Mr. Aman Chaudhary is an advocate, practicing law in the Punjab and Haryana High Court Chandigarh. He graduated from the Law Department of Punjab University in 1996. He holds the position of Standing Counsel for the Government of India and the Union Territory of Chandigarh for conduct of their cases before

the High Court of the States of Punjab and Haryana and the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh. He has also been appointed by the High Court to conduct cases on behalf of the Official Liquidator before the Company Court. He in his firm Aman law Office deals in criminal, educational and service matters for various educational institutions, organizations and multinational companies like Mc Donalds, Ansals, Uppals etc. He takes cases for the Free Legal Aid Authority, free of any charges.

He described his experience of visiting many Rotary Clubs of the RI District 2120 in Southern Italy as a rare opportunity that our Club, Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown, offered and that he is so lucky to have had this experience and very useful exposure to Rotary as also to a different culture at a great distance from our country. He profusely thanked the Club and the institution of Rotary that provide such



*The Happy Cakes*

valuable experience to young people of the world. He said that such visits add to the development of character and personality of the team members. Their outlook widens and the perspectives become more accommodating and tolerant.

The presentation started with an array of photographs projected on the screen through the medium of Power Point facility. There were hundreds of photographs, but he chose about 100 photographs with an explanation and an interesting description of the event shown by the photograph. It was a vivid description of the visit that covered a wide area from the heel of Italy, Santa Maria to the Northern end of the RI District 2120.

He started with an elaborate description of the methodology of the presentations that they gave to the Rotary Clubs of Southern Italy. In all, there were 15 presentations made by the GSE Team during the visit. The team visited 24 cities and enjoyed each visit as different from the previous. Cities visited by Aman

Chaudhary in Pagulia and Basilicata regions are: - Bari, Foggia, Luchera, San Savero, Torri Maggorri, Manferdonia, Venosa, Melfi, Potenza, Maratea, Matera, Siensi, Rabanaya, Francavilla, Brindise, Taranto, Massafara, Ostuni, Galipoli, Santa Maria, Otranto, Lecce, Alberobello. He stayed with seven families. They were very hospitable, very friendly and very helping and accommodating.

Aman described, in detail, the places that they visited and the anecdotes about each visit. The team was separated from their luggage for some time but using some local cabs they managed to get the pieces together, and reached the next take off airport just in time to catch their flight.

He said that for their presentation to the Rotarians of RI District 2120, each member of the team was given a separate subject to deal with to keep a good overall coverage as also to have a deep insight of the subject. His share of the presentation was the festivals of India. He

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*Gift for the Punctuality Draw Winner*

*Gift for Happy B'day Boy*

*Memento for the Guest Speaker*

spoke about the festival of colours, Holi, the festival of joy and harvesting and the birthday of The Khalsa, Baisakhi, the message of peace, Budhha Purnima, the promise of protection, Raksha Bandhan, devotion to the Kaalii, Durga Puja, the festival of lights, Diwali, the festival of brotherhood, Id, the memories of devotion to the Almighty, Gurburb, and the festival of lights and giving, Christmas. Aman also introduced the city of Chandigarh to the audience.

Among his hosts, there was an occasion when his host was an advocate who organized a talk to the advocates there by Aman and they found it very interesting to hear about the Indian legal system and the Indian Judiciary. The host advocate also arranged a visit to their courts where Aman was granted special permission to photograph the court chamber.

The team visited beautiful old castles and churches and also caves where persons of the Jewish community used to stay. They also visited the aid depot of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, to provide immediate aid in materials to the disaster area. They found that the depot was well stocked and the sequence

in which the items were stored showed a very careful thought to meet the immediate needs of the people affected in the troubled-disaster region.

The team, generally, had no problem in communicating with people in the English language, but there were occasions when even the Rotarians of a Club could not converse in English and they had to use the skills of a translator that the hosts had, very thoughtfully, arranged. They found the interaction, in such a situation, incomplete and difficult even with the help of the translator and the local Rotarians.

During the visit, they tasted various types of cuisine, mainly Italian, and they found it bland, though their wines and sweet dishes were very good and very novel. At places the Team saw a whole fish complete with the face with an open mouth and wide-open eyes, that was cooked and served as a special treat. The team found it very repulsive. The team cooked Indian food during one of the visits and also served it to the Rotarians there but they did not like the spicy stuff. The Italian Pizzas and the pastas were very good and the Team enjoyed the good tastes and their novel ways of serving the decorated

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meals. Water was a scarcity there and instead of the usual drinking water they served soda or wine or the various types of colas. Wine was a universal accompaniment with each meal. They found that the roadside vendors were selling wines freely, though the sale of trinkets and other commercial goods was against the law. They found some hawkers doing the unlawful sales in a very novel way, in that they would hang their stuff on umbrella like movable fixtures and as soon as they sensed the presence of cops around they will quickly fold the fixture in a jiffy and carry the innocent looking baggage to another place.

The team also attended the annual Rotary event that we call here in India, District Conference, but they call it the District Congress. It was a three-day affair, though the actual business was conducted during one full day. The rest of the time was spent in merry making and good fellowship among the Rotarians of the District. The floral decorations of the venue was a treat to watch and enjoy.

The team also saw various innovative and different ways of begging, with music, and even with dogs. The dogs looked ferocious but the beggars still used them. Another interesting feature they found was that almost all the Italian ladies that they came in contact, liked the Indian ladies and wanted to be like them.

Throughout their stay, the Team was starved of the world and home news except for the very brief conversations back home through their cell-phones.

In an answer to a question, the Speaker said that the Club meetings there were very informal affairs though the content is almost similar to us. To another question, he answered that they were not taken to any project site of the Club or the District.

While concluding the presentation, Mr. Aman Chaudhary profusely thanked Rotary for this wonderful, enjoyable

and educative experience that Rotary provided him and other members of the Team.

PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee proposed the vote of thanks and, on behalf of the Club, presented a memento to the Guest Speaker. Rtn Mukherjee is a GSE alumnus and he talked of the great personality building experience that he had during the GSE visit.

Cocktails and good fellowship, courtesy, PP Rtn MS Kahlon, followed the meeting.

### The Annual District Awards Function

Annual District Awards Function will be held at Hotel Pallvi, Sector 5 Panchkula, at 10 AM, on 29 June 2008.

The function will, in addition, include the change of District Governor's Collar from District Governor Rtn Shaju Peter to the District Governor Elect Rtn Satish Saluja, who will then take charge of our District 3080, for the Rotary Year 2008-09.

The spot registration is Rs. 650 for single registration, and Rs.1,250 for the Couple.

Midtowners are requested to grace the occasion.

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rtn. Vinod Kumar Jawa June 21

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

R'ann Renu & Rtn. Anil Kishore Khanna June 24

#### PUNCTUALITY DRAW

Won by Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh



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