

# The Mid Towner



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R. I. DISTT. 3080

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Gurdip S. Deep

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Editor  
PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Volume XXXIV No. 03 July 15, 2009

## Birmingham Convention – A Report Back Speaker: PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter

Friday, July 17, 2009

Time: 7.00. PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

### Panel Discussion on the Indian Budget 2009-10

Last meeting on July 10, 2009 was an interesting Panel Discussion on the National Budget. President Gurdip S. Deep welcomed the eminent Panelists; Prof. Subhash Vaidya, DUI, Panjab University and Chairman University Business School, Mr. A.K. Kaushal, Commissioner Income Tax and Mr. Deepak Garg, Additional Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax. Rtn. Brij Gulati, the Moderator of the Panel Discussion, introduced the Panelists. Prof. Vaidya discussed the budget analogically. He said this budget is like a flower which is seen by various people in different perspective. He divided the budget into two types of spending, plan and non-plan. He said if we talk about our household budget we would look at money available and the expenses, and would try to

balance it. Fundamentally, the same thing is done with the national budget. We have to look into the urgency of the expenses. If something is not important it can be postponed for next year. But there are certain non-productive expenses which only Government can afford.

While sharing his thoughts regarding the budget, Mr. Deepak Garg said it has come at the time of global recession as a challenge to revive the economy. He said that the Finance Minister announced in a very proud manner that for the first time the expenditure of the country crossed Rs. 10 lakh crore. The Government is looking at the expenditure and not at the revenue. Earlier the Government was looking at revenue first but this year the Government is only bothered about



President Deep welcomes the Panelists ? ? ?



Prof. Subhash Vaidya, DUI, Panjab University



Mr. A.K. Kaushal Commissioner Income Tax



Mr. Deepak Garg Addl. Commissioner (Excise)

expenditure. Only reason for this could be to generate demand so that the economy comes back on to its rail. However, there is no need to panic. Government needs money for financial bail out. Mr. Garg is confident that we shall manage our fiscal deficit to cut it down. The Government has no option but to generate demand for the industry and also create infrastructure. He said, last year when the industries and export were fading, our agricultural production remained stable. Another factor has been domestic savings as we all tend to save money and invest it. Hence our economy did not fail that much. Our public sector banks also saved us because of their conservative policies and a sound banking system. Other countries are becoming nationalistic, creating barriers for goods coming from other countries. So we have to create our own domestic demand. Mr. Garg said fiscal deficit is like you borrow money to build a house. Revenue deficit is, you borrow money to eat, drink and be merry! It is a wasteful expenditure. Therefore, revenue deficit is a matter of greater worry. He said we should welcome the increase in Government expenditure, which will revive the economy. On tax front there has been a status quo and there is uniformity in the tax system. There have been no tax exemptions as we expected. We should not think as individuals but about the economy and our country

as whole.

Rtn. Gulati said that Income Tax Commissioner Mr. Kaushal is an expert on direct taxes which is of concern to each one of us but due to shortage time Mr. Kaushal suggested an open house interactive discussion. Rtn. R.K. Luther, Rtn. P.K. Verma, PP Jagmohan Mahajan, PP Pallav (not Pranab!) Mukherjee, Rtn. Maj. Gen A.S. Kahlon and PP Col. A.J.S. Gill had their queries which were judiciously handled by the panelists.



Rtn. Brij Gulati, Moderator

Mr. Kaushal made a very pleasant announcement, applicable to our Welfare Trust and those Rotarians who are managing their NGOs. Section 12A of Income Tax Act granted to charitable organizations is of permanent nature, but exemption under section 80-G was given mostly for a period of three years, and then the renewal process was quite cumbersome. But now exemption under section 80-G has also been made permanent.

Vote of thanks was given by Rtn. Arjan Singh. The meeting was followed by 'Fellow-sip', kind courtesy: PP Indrajiet Sengupta.

### President's Announcements

#### Installation Meeting

President Gurdip S. Deep informed that a tentative date for the Installation ceremony is July 25, 2009. Details would be in the next bulletin.

#### Club Assembly

President Deep also announced that the Club Assembly would be held on July 18, 2009 at 5 pm (Venue to be announced later). All Directors & Chairmen have been asked to submit the details of Projects/activities, its budget and the date/month. The President appreciated that Director Rtn. Deepak Sood has already prepared a similar type of sheet.

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Birthday boy  
PP Indrajeet Sengupta



Anv. Couple R'ann Nirmal  
and Rtn. Comdr. A.S. Nagra



DUI, Prof. Subhash Vaidya presents the  
Punctuality Award to PP D.P. Khandelia

## Friendship Exchange, More Than Perfect

The family exchange with The R.C.s of Wollaton Park and Castle Donnington in June came about because of the indefatigable efforts of our erstwhile member Chander Mohan Khera. For atleast 15 years Mohan has been deepening and strengthening bonds between various clubs in Chandigarh and Nottingham so much so that we have all come to look forward to his periodic visits as events on our calendar. It will only be in the fitness of things that all these clubs designate him as their Roving Ambassador. Beyond this our trip to Nottingham was a triumph of the amazingly strong bonds that have come up almost unnoticed between the Rotarians of the two cities.

June 16 found Shaju Peter and Lovy and Parveen and Arjan flying into Heathrow where Mohan already had an earmarked taxi waiting for us to carry us to Nottingham. Harish Sethi & Manjit had reached there in the afternoon and were received by their hosts David & Margaret Jackson at the coach station. In fact Harish had already played a round of golf with his host David,

who too was a keen golfer. One great attraction of the golf course was large number of deers who went about merrily on different holes. It was a great experience.

The next day we were joined by Devinder Kalra and Anuradha from Panipat. Thereafter the way we were welcomed and lionised can only be said to be amazing. Sight-seeing is a normal part of every such excursion but what was more gratifying was that we were all asked our preferences and our hosts tried to mould the schedule accordingly. It all began with a meeting with Mrs Ginni Packer, the Lady Mayor of Nottingham. She spent an hour and a half with the team. After that it was one big whirl as Rotarians from both clubs joined together to shepherd us around. A visit to D.H. Lawrence's house was followed by a visit to Trent Bridge where we saw the semi-finals of the T20 tournament. The ambience of the stadium was lovely & the atmosphere was electrifying. Though the team backed by us didn't win but we had a memorable experience. The visit to Mohan's club that evening brought us face to face with old friends John and

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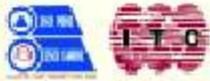
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Jean Clifford. Next day to Shakespeare's birth place Stratford-upon Avon with David and Chris followed by a cocktails & Dinner at Sukh Atwall's. Meanwhile, an excursion was arranged for Harish and Manjit to go to Derbyshire. Alan Gardner, President of the Club took them to some of the most scenic spots & also took them to Wollaton Hall, the magnificent palace built in Elizabethan style of architecture in the 17th century. The visit to Nottingham Castle revealed treasures that were centuries old. What took our breath away was the very extensive collection of Wedgwood China which was on display. A day later Patrick Parkes who was our guest in 2007 took Arjan & Parveen to stay in his house at Castle Donnington for spending two days in an "unstructured fashion". May God give everyone such an "unstructured " interlude. Not only did they stay in his 300 year old house but they also got to see a wedding in a neighbouring church, where a special hymn was played for them.

Please note the new address of President Gurdip S. Deep Flat No. 5146, Modern Housing Complex, Manimajra, Chandigarh. Phone: 2733030

### Wedding Anniversary Greetings

- R'ann Sudarshan & Rtn. Ravinder Krishan July 19  
R'ann Ashima & Rtn. Rohit Gupta July 20  
R'ann Anupam & Rtn. Rakesh Jain July 23



Finally, a little business was also transacted during this visit. At the meeting of the R.C. of Wollaton Park it has been decided that we will contribute at least 500 pounds equivalent to their hospital project in Nepal while they will contribute 1000 pounds to our AIDS Detection Programme. Saturday, the 20th. June was our last day with the hosts. We were touched and overwhelmed by the consideration and hospitality given to us by the Rotarians of Wollaton Park and Castle Donnington. This has to be absolutely the best way to build bridges across peoples and nations.



Members of the Group & the Host at the Shakespeare Centre at Stratford-upon Avon.



Members watching the Semi-Finals of 20-20 World Cup Cricket match at Trent Bridge ,Nottingham

Contributed by Rtn. Arjan Singh & PP Harish Sethi

### Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Atul Grover



July 23

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