



The Midtowner

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Club Number : 15228

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. Distt. 3080

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For Restricted Circulation Only Volume XXXV No. 43 Dated: May 4, 2011

Bulletin Editor
PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

PROGRAMME

"Piracy on the High Seas – Saga of the RAK AFRICANA"

Speaker: PP Capt. Moni Kahlon

Friday, May 06, 2011

Time: 7.00 p.m. Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

The Week that was! Mayday!

Mayday is an emergency code word used internationally as a distress signal in voice procedure radio communications. It derives from the French "venez m'aider", meaning 'come help me'.

But on the morning of Mayday – the 1st of May, 2011, the word had nothing to do with the fabulous Intercity of Change which we attended at "Noor Mahal" ki 5 star hotel located in Sec 32, Karnal – which is almost in the middle of nowhere! Rising like a Phoenix out of a desolate landscape, with only hundreds of concrete lampposts for company – the place is a veritable oasis. And one feels welcomed in that desolation.

(Check out its website for its pics and other details.)

The 600 + Rotarians who converged at this spot were treated like "baratis" – by incoming DG Manpreet Singh and his team, which we Rotarians have grown so accustomed to!

After the customary jhappians – pappians at the sumptuous breakfast we trickled into the vast meeting hall – you've got to see it – where, ultimately we were treated to a variety of – you guessed it – lectures, with one aberration! A scintillating session with a Sardar called TS. And did he regale us? Boy, he had the audience in splits – with his anecdotes and wise ones.

He asked us to change our attitudes towards Rotary now – even after all these years – to get some peace.

Much like the guy who gets married to find that his wife's paramour is following her even after he has changed his name, his job, and his location.

But then the guy finds the solution – a change in attitude!

And what's that?

He now is happy thinking that she is married to her paramour – but living with him instead!

But that was the theme of the Intercity – CHANGE!

And I guess it is time! Time for India this time!

The Rotary year starting July 1st has Kalyan Banerjee, of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat, India, as President of Rotary International - the 3rd after Nitish Laharry from Calcutta, and Raja Saboo from our city.

He is joined by two RI Directors from India – Yash Das from Ambala, and Shekhar Mehta, of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal – who are on board the team for 2011-13.

I don't know what that means to you, but to me it means lets show 'em now. Time for a revamp, a makeover, a quantum change from the plodding pace that we were getting used to!

Time to get into high gear – and make that climb, and reach that peak!

Here's an excerpt from the incoming RI president's speech:

As Rotary continues to grow and become more influential, it increases its capacity to effect change in India, Banerjee said. "As I have seen more and more Indians choose to become Rotarians, and I have seen what those Rotarians have achieved, it has become clear to me that India and Rotary International are part of a symbiotic relationship: Each is making the other stronger," he said, pointing to the PolioPlus program as a sign of Rotary's ongoing success in India and other polio-endemic countries.

"In a way, some parts of India still exemplify a developing country, and this gives me perhaps a different perspective on Rotary's international service," he said. "I have seen the impact that our simplest projects can have. I have seen firsthand our work in literacy, in health, in hunger, in providing safe water -- and I have seen the difference it makes to each village, each family, and each individual human life."

Look around you, and you will find more than plenty that needs doing!

So just do it!
And carry your club along – make them join in, and do it!

Carry your family along and your spouse along – and just do it!
And savour the change that you will have initiated!



Last Friday's meeting – the Quij!

Last Friday was an emergency – or let's call that a planned Emergency!

Plan B – or whatever name our President has for contingencies.

Which in this case was the ubiquitous QUIZ!

An easy solution to any problematic speaker, or lack of one!
So, the chocolates were acquired, and several rounds of questions saw them being voraciously devoured (or saved for the night) – and to hell with the calories!

But fry your brains with these ones?

Which of our DGs was born in Chennai?

Who or what in our club is a leapling?

Why is a Lt.Gen. senior to a Maj. Gen?

Who from our club has three daughters settled in Kaneda (Canada for you Angrejs!)?

Our Minister for Aviation?

Or Urban Development?

How about the actual or original date of Christmas?

A great circle? As in navigation – and not vadda chakkar!

What colour hat did Kate Middleton wear? And her vaddi saas? EEEks!

Had you been there we could have had your stomach in stiches – like the rest of them.

Dept. of Social Welfare - Chandigarh Admin.

Set up in the year 1978, this Department is responsible for welfare of Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities, Women and Children and other vulnerable sections of the Society. The Department is managing one Nari Niketan, one Juvenile Home under the Juvenile Justice Act.

The Welfare of SC/ST and OBC, includes Post Delivery Financial Assistance to Women for Nutrition; Stitching Charges of School uniform for S.C. Children, Free Education for Meritorious SC and OBC students; Apni Beti Apna Dhan; Holiday Camps for Scheduled Caste; Encouragement to inter-caste Marriage; Development of

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Skills amongst SC children living in Jhugies and Slum Areas; Seminar on Life, Mission & Work of Baba Saheb Dr.B.R. Ambedkar, Monetary Relief/ Rehabilitation of Victims of Atrocities; Strengthening of Machinery for the enforcement of PCR Act, Housing Scheme for Scheduled Castes (Dr.Ambedkar Awaj Yojana) etc..

For Social Security and Welfare of Women and Children, there are schemes like Creches for the Children of Working Mothers; Construction of Anganwari Centre; Home for Delinquent/Neglected Children; Children in need of care and protection; Financial Assistance to Widows/Destitute Women; Nari Niketan etc.

For the disabled, schemes of Scholarship, Subsidy on Petrol/Diesel; Prosthetic aid, Unemployment Allowance; Free Vocational Training in Computer and Beauty Culture etc. are being implemented. For the aged, scheme of Old Age Pension is being implemented and Identity Cards to Senior Citizens are also being issued. An ex-gratia payment to the family of deceased Govt. servants is being released by this department. The following institutions are functioning in the Union Territory of Chandigarh for providing shelter to the aged:-

A Senior Citizens Home has been set up Sector 43, Chandigarh which is being managed by Chandigarh Child & Women Development Corporation.

A Home for Old & Destitute People is functioning in Sector 15, Chandigarh in the Govt. building which is being managed by the Lions Club Chandigarh (Central).

More Details

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE

A sum of Rs.5000/- is granted to the married couples provided that one of the spouse belongs to S.C. Community. The applicant shall apply on plain paper alongwith SC certificate, marriage Registration Certificate and proof of their residence in Chandigarh with photographs of their marriage.

POST NATAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTES WOMEN.

The scheme aims at providing direct benefit to Scheduled Caste Women who are living below poverty line to enable them to maintain their health after delivery. Under the scheme a sum of Rs.1000/- is being given to the S.C. Women at the time of first and second delivery. Criteria for this benefit is as under:-

(i) Family income should not exceeds Rs.24,000/-

(ii) Applicant should be resident of Chandigarh for the last 3 years.

STITCHING CHARGES OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR S.C. CHILDREN.

Under this scheme, Chandigarh Child & Women Finance Development Corporation will meet the cost of stitching charges of school uniforms in respect of approximately 15,000 S.C. children studying in various Government School at Chandigarh. The uniforms are being supplied by the Education Department.

APNI BETI APNA DHAN

A Scheme known as Apni Beti Apna Dhan was introduced during 1997-98 for the Scheduled Caste families whose annual income is upto 40,000. An amount of Rs.3000/- on the birth of girls child is being deposited in the name of girl child in the children growth fund. This benefit is given subject to the following criteria :-

Either of the parents of the girl should not a Govt. employee or of any Govt. Board or Corporation or any Public Sector Undertaking or organization having Class I or Class II status.

Either of parents is not income tax payee.

The total income of family does not exceed Rs.40,000 p.a. if either of the parents is not covered under above two clauses. The girl child is either the first or second child of the family. Family having more than two children will not be eligible.

SCHEME OF FREE EDUCATION FOR MERITORIOUS SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD STUDENTS.

This scheme has been introduced to provide benefit of free education to meritorious Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes students whose family income from all

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source does not exceed Rs.2,50,000/- p.a. and who are seeking admission to the courses viz. MBBS, BDS, BVSc, BAMS, DHMS, B.E., B.Architecture, Bachelor of Fine Arts, B.Pharmacy, B.Sc (Nursing), Degree/ Diploma in Hotel Management, Degree Diploma in Laboratory Technology, B.Ed, M.Ed, LL.B, LLM, MBA, MCA and any other course decided by the Committee. Such students who fulfill the requirement of the scheme shall be eligible for the following benefits:-

A lumpsum annual allowance of Rs.5,000/- payable in one instalment in the start of the academic session.

Full reimbursement of tuition fees upto a maximum of Rs.30,000/- per annum and other non refundable charges payable to the institution.

A monthly pocket allowance of Rs.500/- for day students.

A monthly allowance of Rs.1000/- for hostellers.

For students taking admission in cities other than Chandigarh, reimbursement of actual journey fare will be admissible thrice in one academic year provided fare for to and fro journey by ordinary bus or ordinary class rail does not exceed Rs.150/-.

Minimum essential books and stationery.

Any other allowance considered necessary by Administration from time to time.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MARRIAGE OF DAUGHTERS OF WIDOWS/ DESTITUTE WOMEN.

Financial Assistance of Rs.10,000/- is provided for the

marriage of daughters of Widows/ Destitute Women belonging to the Scheduled Caste Communities who are living below poverty line. The assistance is admissible for the marriage of two daughters in a family.

DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS AMONGST SC CHILDREN LIVING IN JHUGIES AND SLUM AREAS.

Under this scheme training in Stenography, Cutting, Tailoring, Computer Course, Beautician course etc. is provided to the SC children living in slum and Juggis. This scheme is being implemented through the Chandigarh Child & Women Development Corporation.

WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Balika Samridhi Yojana

Under this scheme Rs.500/- is given to the newly born girl child in the families whose monthly income is below the poverty line.

Bal Niketan Society

This society is running a Home for the Destitute Children in a Govt. building in Sector 15, Chandigarh under the Govt. of India's Scheme Welfare of Children in need of Care and Protection. The Social Welfare Department bears the 90% cost of expenditure on the maintenance of inmates.

WELFARE OF WOMEN

To be continued...

This week's Bulletin is compiled by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee

Birthday of Rotary Anns

R'ann Neena Jauhar

12th May

Birthdays of Rotarians

Rtn. P K Vasudeva



7th May

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Sharda & PP Rtn. R S Chandgothia

7th May

R'ann Savita & Rtn. Om Prakash Malik

10th May

R'ann Vinny & Rtn. R S Sachdeva



10th May

R'ann Madhu & Rtn. Suresh Dhawan

11th May

R'ann Santosh & PP Rtn. Kesho Ram Gupta

11th May

R'ann Anu & Rtn. Sanjay Singhal

12th May