

PROGRAMME

Importance of Astrology and Vaastu in our Life

Guest Speaker: Dr. D. Uppal

Astrologer & Vaastu Consultant

Friday, May 13, 2011

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

Piracy on the High Seas – The harrowing tale of Rak Afrikana

The harrowing tale of a crew of 26 of the Ocean Liner Rak Afrikana, hijacked by Somalian pirates on April 11, 2010, held captive for 332 days near Harardhere, Somalia and released finally on March 8, 2011 with the intervention of Mrs. Preet Kaur, Maharani of Patiala and Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, was the



Capt. Moni Kahlon gives power point presentation

theme of a power point presentation made by PP Capt. Moni Kahlon last Friday.

Moni was introduced by PDG Shaju Peter. Moni is a multifaceted ancient mariner with many worlds, said Shaju describing the

speaker. Ancient because nobody would otherwise know that he would be celebrating his 70th birthday in just a few days, multifaceted because classification-wise he has seen it all through, from Captain of a ship, manufacturer of leather footwear and Counsellor and trainer of young cadets going

out to sea.

Shaju recalled that Moni joined the club back in 1992 on the first day of his term as the club president. Moni went on to become club president in 1999. Describing his year as the leader of the club S h a j u w a s

reminded of the definition of a good captain who weathers the storm when he cannot avoid it and avoids the storm when he cannot weather it. Moni has uncanny ability to think out of the box, laterally and creatively, said Shaju. Reminiscing about his year he commented the club's project of looking after the son of a Kargil martyr right through his education and raising funds in unique and untried ways. The fashion show he organized as a pre conference event at Rtn. Ravinder Krishan's farm would still be live in Midtowners' memories.

Moni has served the club in many capacities: Director International, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Governor in 2006-07.

He brought home to the audience the saga of Rak Afrikana through dramatic visuals of pirates at sea. Among the crew of 26 of Rak Afrikana which belonged Capt. Kotwal, an Indian based in Dubai, 11 were Indians and of them 2 were from Punjab, IInd Officer Pratap Inder Singh of Mohali and Cadet Navdeep Singh of Kharar. The families of the two seafarers approached Moni on February 5 this year. He sprang into action immediately and met Mr. Randeep Nabha, MLA and then Mrs. Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. The two families met Mr. Rahul Gandhi on February 11 who promised them all possible assistance in their release.

The ship was hijacked a few nautical miles north of Seachelles and taken to Harardhere near the coast of Somalia where it remained stationed right through the saga. The owner of the ship visited Delhi twice and met the families of the hostages essentially to counsel patience. "Time is the weapon to extract more money," said the owner and requested the families not to approach the Government or shipping authorities because that would only serve to worsen the situation.

During captivity the food consisted of rice and potatoes for



Harrowing tale of Rak Afrikana



Rtn. Salil Bali presents a memento to PP Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon



R'ann Santosh & PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho R. Gupta are presented wedding anniversary gift by PP M.S. Kahlon



PP Capt Kahlon presents punctuality award to Rtn. Kanan Diwan

the entire period. Food was cooked on wood fire because power had failed in the hijacked vessel.

Some were held captive in the mess room while others were in the navigation bridge. The Captain was forced to stay on the bridge right through the 332 days. In November 2010 the hostages were taken ashore and forced to speak to their respective families and urge them to pressurize their Government to get involved in arranging ransom. Within days of Mrs. Preet Kaur's intervention, Capt. A Kotwal, owner of the ship dropped the ransom. Nobody has any clue what the ransom amount was! The two seamen were back home in Punjab on March 16 and 17, 2011. Moni had a

word of praise for the concern shown by Mrs. Preet Kaur whose effective intervention put an end to the harrowing tale of the hostages.

At a function organized by the Seafarers Association in Chandigarh recently, very well covered by the media, Mrs. Preet Kaur was felicitated. In the technical session that preceded it was revealed that the Tricity of Chandigarh is home to an estimated 3500 seafaring officers and engineers who remit nearly Rs.35 crore in foreign exchange to this region every month.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Salil Bali. The story of piracy on the high seas was an eye-opener, he said.

District Assembly

District assembly, as reported in our previous bulletin, was held on 1st May 2011 at Hotel Noor Mahal, Karnal. It was an important training program for incoming club leadership.

In coming RI President Kalyan Banerjee expects us to make an extra effort and find new ways to bring the change that will take us to extraordinary heights of Rotary service, and



Rotarians of Chandigarh Midtown at District Assembly



PP Capt. M.S. Kahlon and Rtn. Ashok Puri enjoy the Tea Break on GT Road and so does PP Pallav Mukherjee, at the Dhaba where the owner ensures 'Good Food & Good Mood'



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prepare ourselves to "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity".

To be part of this change, our club was represented by PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter, PP Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon, PP Rtn. Pallav

Mukherjee, President Rtn. Prem Anand, President Elect Rtn. R.K. Luther, Secretary Elect Rtn. Amarjit Singh, Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan, Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra, Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua and Rtn. Ashok Puri.

Thanks Pallav!

Thanks to PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee for editing the last week's bulletin.

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

Congratulations to Dada-Dadi

Our heartiest congratulations to Rtn. Madhu Sudan Manaktala & R'ann Nita who have become Dada-Dadi. Their son Mohit & daughter-in-law Payal have been blessed with a son.

Dept. of Social Welfare - Chandigarh Admin.

Compiled by PP Pallav Mukherjee

Continued from last week's Bulletin No. 43

WELFARE OF WOMEN

I. Pension to Widows and Destitute Women

This is a U.T. budget scheme and each beneficiaries is given Rs.200/- p.m. The eligibility criteria for the grant of this benefit is as under:-

The applicant (women) in the age group of 18-59 years who have been left without sufficient means of subsistence after the demise of her husband or has been deprived of financial support from her husband because of his continues absence or because of physical/mental incapacity or desertion by her husband or any other reasons.

The applicant must have been resided in UT, Chandigarh for more than 3 years at the time of making an application.

The women who belong to the family wherein their family income does not exceed Rs.1000/- p.m excluding the income of sons who are living separately.

II. Creches for the children of working mothers

44 creches for children of working mothers are being run through various voluntary organizations as per approved norms.

III. National Family Benefit Scheme

The family of the household below the poverty line get an assistance of Rs.10,000/- on the death of its primary bread winner if the age of deceased exceeds 18 years and is less than 65 years.

IV. Nari Niketan

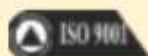

Nari Niketan at Sector 26 Chandigarh has been set up to provide shelter and protection to destitute, deprived, socially marginalized women in difficult circumstances for motivation of better life by way of earning income. Mathii making project are being carried out in the institution by the Chandigarh Child & Women Development Corporation. A vocational Training Centre has also been constructed in the premises of Nari Niketan.

WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED

I. Pension to disabled persons

Persons who are blind, deaf, orthopaedically handicapped who suffer from 40% disability and more are given financial assistance of Rs.200 p.m. The eligibility criteria for availing this benefit is as under:-

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- (i) The applicant should be resident of Chandigarh for the last three years.
- (ii) Income limit for getting Handicapped Pension is:-
 - (a) Rs.1000 of the person concerned
 - (b) If married, total income of both husband and wife should not exceed Rs.1500/- p.m.
 - (c) If not earning, then income of his/her parents, in case of one child should not exceed Rs.500/- p.m. and if two or more children, then Rs.3000/- p.m.

II. Petrol Subsidy

Handicapped persons who are owner of motorized vehicles are entitled to 50% subsidy on actual expenditure on purchase of petrol/ diesel. The physically handicapped persons having an income upto Rs.2500/- per month from all sources are eligible for subsidy. Those physically handicapped persons who are already in receipt of the conveyance allowance either from any voluntary or State source shall not be eligible for grant of subsidy on purchase of petrol/ diesel.

III. Assistance to handicapped persons purchase of AIDS/Appliances

The financial assistance is provided to physically handicapped persons for purchase of Aids/ Appliances to increase their mobility in their day to day working. The quantum of assistance is determined in proportion to the income of the applicant. Monthly income of the applicant from all sources should not exceed Rs.8,000/-. The applicant is entitled for the 100% cost on purchase of artificial limbs/ aids/ appliances subject to maximum of Rs.20,000/-

IV. State Resource Centre

A State Resource Centre-cum-District Rehabilitation Centre has been set up in Government Medical College,

Birthdays of Rotarian Spouse

Dr. B.C. Gupta

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan



May 14

Sector 32, Chandigarh under the Government of India Scheme, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD). The main objective behind setting up of the center is to deliver medical, social vocational and educational rehabilitative services to the physically and mentally challenged by providing access to these services through community based functionaries.

The coordinating agencies other than Government Medical College are Government Institute of Mentally Retarded Children, Sector 32, Chandigarh, Nevedac Prosthetic Centre, Zirakpur, Institute for the Blind, Sector 26 and PRAYAAS Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped Children.

V. Unemployment allowance to the disabled persons

The Social Welfare department is providing Unemployment Allowance to the disabled persons. Rates of unemployment allowance are given below:

Rates of Unemployment Allowance

1. For Matriculate and under Graduate applicants --- Rs. 300/- per month for Visually Handicapped and Deaf & Dumb Persons. Rs.150/- per month for Other categories of Handicapped persons.
2. For Graduate/Post Graduate applicants --- Rs. 400/- per month for Visually Handicapped and Deaf & Dumb Persons. Rs. 200/- per month for Other categories of Handicapped persons.

VI. Scholarship to disabled persons

The Social Welfare Department is providing Scholarship to the disabled students. From Class-I to VIII, the scholarship is provided by the Education Department and from Class 9th onwards, by the Social Welfare Department in the range of Rs.50/- to Rs.500/- depending upon the class of study.

Wedding Anniversary

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

R'ann Gurinder & Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua



May 17

May 19

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