

PROGRAMME

Experiences on Cruise to Alaska

Powerpoint Presentation by: PP Rtn. T.S. Anand  
Managing Director, Widex India P. Ltd.

Friday, May 27, 2011

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

## Interactive Session on State of the Nation Our Vision for Chandigarh as Rotarians

In our club meeting on May 20, 2011, Guest Speaker PE Rtn. Mrs. Neena Singh of Rotary Club of Chandigarh, Former Executive Vice President, HDFC Bank was welcomed by President Rtn. Prem Anand and introduced by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee. Born and educated in Lucknow, schooling from La Martiniere Girls High School and



PE Rtn. Mrs. Neena Singh

graduation from Isabella Thoburn College, Neena joined State Bank of Patiala in 1978 as an officer and in the span of 18 years held various responsibilities as Branch Head at Lucknow, Parwanoo, Kartarpur and Bombay (Dadar). She was also Planning Manager & Chief Manager International Banking posted at Chandigarh and Patiala. A Certified Associate of The Indian Institute of Bankers, Neena joined Times Bank as Assistant Vice President in Oct. 1996. She was elevated to Vice-President & the MD's Representative for the Region when the merger with HDFC Bank took place in Feb. 2000. Post merger, she was designated as the Regional Head of HDFC Bank - North, covering Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh. She quit the bank in Aug 2007 after 29 years in banking to work for the non-profit sector.

As Trustee of Bharat Prakarsh Foundation Neena founded this NGO, for education to economically underprivileged children. Neena has also been actively associated with CII, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, INTACH and

SPICMACAY. She is also the Director of Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation (CITCO). She has been conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award by Chandigarh Management Association for the year 2006-07. Neena is married to Mr. Prithpal Singh, former AGM of State Bank of Patiala, who is now the Managing Trustee of Bharat Prakarsh Foundation. They have one son, Prakarsh, a PhD Scholar from London School of Economics who will be joining Amherst College in US as Assistant Professor in July.

In Rotary year 2011-12 Neena will be President of Rotary Club of Chandigarh, and we look forward to a vibrant and dynamic year under her leadership.

Her address started with a clarification, "Pallav told me that I have to speak on 'The state of the Nation' but I would rather speak on 'Our Vision for Chandigarh as Rotarians'. After all our city is a microcosm of the nation and if we are able to bring some positive change in our own city it impacts the country too!"

Neena gave a small brief on Chandigarh, which was commissioned in 1947, to reflect the newly independent India's modern and progressive outlook. In the words of Nehru, 'Unfettered by the traditions of the past, a symbol of the nation's faith in the future.' The city, designed by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, his cousin Pierre Jeanneret and British architects Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew, is one of the most significant planning experiments of the 20th century. However, at 64, this modern city has now met its most significant test, a modern India, and with it, a debate about preservation and urban growth. Conceived for a total population of 5 lakh, today Chandigarh has a population of 10 lakh, not including a migrant population of about 3 lakh that informally occupy the city's periphery.

Within Asia, however, Chandigarh stands out. It ranks first



Rtn. Arjan Singh presents a memento to PE Rtn. Mrs. Neena Singh



PE Rtn. Mrs. Neena Singh presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Indu & PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra



Rtn. Neena Singh presents punctuality award to Rtn. Salil Bali. Looking on is Secretary Rtn. Deepak Sood

in India's Human Development Index and for its quality of life. It has been rated as the "Wealthiest Town" in the country, based on a per capita income, and in terms of family wealth it is rated as the sixth most prosperous city. It is not economic migration that makes Chandigarh a contemporary urban phenomenon but its transition from a city designed on modest principles of social equality to a city that represents social aspiration and wealth.

Neena's talk was based on facts and figures. She said, "Chandigarh has emerged at 14th rank in 'The Livability Index 2010', a unique report based on a rigorous study conducted by Confederation of Indian Industry and Institute for Competitiveness, India." She added, "The Livability Index 2010 is a methodical index of quality of living conditions in Indian cities. The report is brought-out after a comprehensive study on 37 cities, ranked on the basis of eight pillars like demographics, education, health & medical standards, safety, housing, socio-cultural political environment, economic environment and natural build & planned environment basis."

An objective analysis was conducted by employing more than 300 indicators on a 10 year time line series across 20 constituent sub-pillars. Chandigarh leads the country in offering the best experience on Urban Household Crowding, which given its open spaces is an enviable asset. It also offers a high 3rd rank in terms of purchasing power. However, across most other pillars of reckoning, it hovers

on national averages.

The openness is apparently deluding. The truth is a city with high livability has to score high on multiple other dimensions too. Perception on a city has to be aggregated over various spectra of population connected with the city, and not be a view of only the elite, who have higher livability standards in whichever part of the world they live in.

It was pleasing when Neena said, "Chandigarh ranks amongst the top ten cities in Education level distribution, housing costs and availability, economic environment, occupation level distribution, business environment and health & medical standards. This shows the city is wonderful to live in."

But Neena also enlightened the dismal performance of the city in Demographics ranking 36th; it is pathetic in terms of migration rankings which is 34th. She pointed out, "Such a situation of high migration has also led to the crime rate in the city to be one amongst the highest in the country giving it a deplorable 36th position; the safety has received a setback which is 29th amongst the cities surveyed. The number of road accidents is also alarming and the city is at the 20th rank."

International standards have to be met and even excelled. Just like India can not forever play the trumpet of being "sone ki chidiya", Chandigarh too has to evolve onto newer mentions of pride, not complacent that Le Corbusier touch

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is the only winner up its sleeve. Livability is about qualitative supra-performance and not confined to living. Living is an individual experience, livability is a city's summated experience about itself. Since Chandigarh is already high on many pillars, it can surge ahead with great pace.

Neena posted some serious questions to Rotarians, "What do you Rotarians envision for Chandigarh - the city you live in and love? How do you wish to actualize this vision? In which areas does the city need service projects?" She said, "These are the questions each of us needs to ask and debate and make an Action Plan incorporated in the Strategic Plan and Club Leadership Plan. The four top priority are: Health, Education, Clean water and Economic Development."

It is thus imperative that we build projects around these areas. Medical camps, Blood Donation Camps, Health Follow up camps have been Rotary's forte - we need to make these more structured and more impactful. Neena advised, "We need to stress volunteerism in our Rotary clubs by donating our time, skill and knowledge to those in society who need them. There are more than 10000 children in our City Beautiful not attending school. Touch the lives of such children through libraries, scholarships, teaching, and you would have done your bit."

## Unique Offer by President Prem Anand - PHF on Sale!!!

President Rtn. Prem Anand means serious business when he talks about The Rotary Foundation. In the club meeting last Friday he minced no words when he said, "Everybody is happy or crazy with 'Sale', wherever you go, whether Sector 17 or 22, you would see Sale banners with 50 % or more discount!" He said why not follow the same system, and "we have also put PHF on Sale."

Prem said, "We have made it easy. Any body who will give us

Neena strongly advocated clean drinking water which is a basic necessity. Rotary Club of Chandigarh had installed 100 Water filters in Govt. schools to make this available for school children. Every day 2500 children die of malnutrition in India. Infant and maternal mortality rates are poor. As Rotarians, we can build some projects to improve this. She also talked about RVTC's unique set up, where economic empowerment is the aim through vocational education like: Computer, Beautician and Tailoring being conducted for weaker sections of society.

Taking a cue from John F. Kennedy, Mrs. Neena Singh concluded, "My fellow Rotarians: Let us ask not what our city can do for us, ask what we can do for our city. As Rotarians of the City, we have a great strength and presence - as also a voice! Let us join hands for service and strive to make Chandigarh the City of our dreams. Let us be the change we wish to see in the country."

Vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Arjan Singh. He endorsed the Vision that Mrs. Neena Singh has for Chandigarh and said, "We thank Neena for focusing our attention on to the issues that are crying out between the affluence of the city and the livability of the under class."

\$ 350, that is, Rs 15750/- only, we shall match this contribution with \$ 350 from the District and remaining \$ 300 (Rs. 13500/-) from our club to make it \$ 1000 (Rs. 45000/-) and he/she will become a Paul Harris Fellow." Prem added, "Do not miss this attractive 'Sale' opportunity because this scheme is upto.... till the Stock lasts." Those who are already PHFs can become multiple or major donor. They can even make their spouse, children or grand children PHF.

## Micro Loan

Last week we have disbursed another micro loan. This loan of Rs.20,000/- has been given to Sh. Bir Singh for the

purchase of a buffalo. Bir Singh is the chauffeur of PDG Shaju Peter who has also guaranteed the loan.

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# Rotary eClub of District 3080

From: Dr. V.J.S. Vohra <drvjsvohra@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, May 20, 2011 at 1:24 PM

Subject: Rotary eClub of District 3080

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Cc: Madhukar Malhotra  
<dg1011rotary3080@hotmail.com>

Dear President,

As per directions of DG Rtn. Madhukar Malhotra I am sending you this mail.

You shall be pleased to know that Rotary eClub of D-3080, sponsored by Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, has been approved by the College of Governors of RI District 3080, who have appointed PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter as the Governors Special Representative.

Rotary eClub is like any other traditional Rotary club, but

## Birthday of Rotary Anns

R'ann Rekha Azad

R'ann Rashi Khosla

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Salil Bali



June 01

June 02

meeting on-line for friendship, fellowship and service. This Rotary eClub of D-3080 shall be hybrid in nature, that is, it will conduct Rotary business on internet, but will also meet face to face - once a month. The members shall be chosen from the compact geographic area of Chandigarh and around to facilitate travel for the monthly meeting.

The Rotary eClub will extend membership to Business owners, Professionals, ex-Rotarians and the Community. Any Rotarian from around the world could make-up attendance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

As President of your club, you are requested to widely circulate this proposal and motivate the potential members who would be interested to join this unique Rotary eClub, which is being chartered within the current Rotary year. They should immediately contact the undersigned or DG Madhukar Malhotra at;

Off: 107A Sector 18A, Chandigarh - 160018

Res: 2228 Sector 21C, Chandigarh - 160022

email: dg1011rotary3080@hotmail.com

M: 919316110939 Res: 0172-2700939

For further details please click on this link:  
[www.rotaryclub3080.org/](http://www.rotaryclub3080.org/)

Rotary regards.

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

Chair, eClub Extension

email: drvjsvohra@gmail.com

Ph. 9814006829, 0172-2623620

## Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Rekha & PP Rtn. Anil K. Mehan

R'ann Indu & Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra



May 29

May 30

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