

# The Midtowner

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080

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**Dr. V. J. S. Vohra**

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PROGRAMME

## Installation Function of New Rotaract Club of Vidya Jyoti

Chief Guest: Rtn. Arvind Mehan, Assistant Governor, Zone 2

Friday, April 12, 2013

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Please note  
the change to  
summer timings,  
that is, 7 p.m.

### Challenges to India's Security - A Holistic Appraisal

The Chief Guest in our Club meeting on April 05, 2013, Lieutenant General Vijay Oberoi, PVSM, AVSM, VSM gave a presentation on 'Challenges to India's Security - A Holistic Appraisal'. He was introduced by Rtn. Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh, KC, AVSM (Retd.) who said, "What a privilege to introduce one



Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi

of the most famous Generals of the Indian Army, who happened to be my boss, and I also welcome Mrs. Daulat Oberoi." Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi retired as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army, after over 40 years of military service in 2001. He is a post-graduate in Defence Studies and was an International Fellow at The United States Army War College in USA in 1988-89. He was also

the Defence Adviser of India at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in the early Eighties. He has held important command, staff and instructional appointments in the Indian Army, and was decorated thrice, with all the three Distinguished Service Medals of India. Gen. Oberoi (then a captain) was severely wounded during the 1965 Indo-Pak Conflict, wherein he lost his right leg. Despite his disability, he rose steadily in the Army, till he retired as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on September 30, 2001. He has written extensively on security issues and international relations. He has edited three books and has also contributed chapters to many other professional books. Gen. Oberoi was the Founder Director of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi for five years. He is also the Founder President of the War Wounded Foundation, which is working for the meaningful rehabilitation of the war disabled of all military personnel.

President Ritu Singal welcomed other guests; Maj. Gen. R.S. Chopra, VSM, Former Commander of 17 Mountain Division who retired over a year ago as Chief of Staff from Jodhpur and

his wife Mrs. Renu Chopra, Dr. Dharam Vir, Speech & Hearing Specialist of PGI and Mr. Sunil Aswal, Regional Head, Indusind Bank, Chandigarh.

Before coming to his presentation Gen. Oberoi commented, "My late father was a Rotarian for a very long time in Amritsar. My younger brother has followed him as he too is a Rotarian. Rotary is very important because what you do is similar to what we do in the army. We serve the nation, you serve the people. That is the affiliation the armed forces have with all the Rotarians."

The first slide of Gen. Oberoi's presentation showed the map of the entire globe, where the nations were divided into being super power, the great powers, the regional powers, middle powers and large number of small powers. He said India falls into the category of regional power, whereas China is a great power and Pakistan is a middle power. He termed India as the second or third largest Muslim population in the world, depending on who gives the census. As our neighbours, India is having Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), China, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. The common factor for all these countries are that India is their neighbour. Gen. Oberoi observed, "That is why there is inbuilt scope of irritation and cause of trouble."

He said, "The reality is that the whole of J&K acceded to India in 1947, and that cannot be changed. Unfortunately, our



Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon presents a memento to Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi. Looking on are President Ritu Singal and Secretary A.K. Puri

political leadership and diplomats are to be blamed for spoiling our case in United Nations and worldwide. Our position must always be that India's sovereignty is not negotiable.”

Giving due importance to strategy in our daily life, Gen. Oberoi said our leaders make strategies only for elections but there is no security strategy. Our policy makers and security experts must first formulate a comprehensive security strategy and thereafter the diplomats and others should work out to achieve a proper negotiating plan.

He highlighted the six opportunities from 1947 to 1998 when India became a nuclear power, which the politicians had been missing to come out with deep rooted security strategy.

There are two crucial aspects of our relations with Pakistan. The first is the fragile nature of the so-called peace process with Pakistan and the second is the lack of any long term plans and policies. Resultantly, the persons who have to implement or take action are confused. Our policy makers are so lacking in imagination that they seem to think that there are only two options open to them, which are either dialogue or war. It is high time the government understands that there are innumerable options available between negotiations and war, provided it takes the advice of professionals.

Commencing with the operations launched to save Kashmir in October 1947, to various wars and conflicts fought to secure the nation, military should have become the darling of the nation. It undoubtedly is for the common Indian, but the story is quite different where our governing class is concerned. Political leaders of India look at army with suspicion. They must realize that while the Indian Army has remained apolitical and

professional, the Pakistani Army soon after partition started toppling elected governments and became the ultimate power centre of the country. In the process it lost its military qualities and professionalism.

The military has always placed status as the epitome of a soldier, while the government seems to have no time for such emotions. Our political leadership, on account of their high dependence on the bureaucracy, seems helpless, as they merely echo what their so called advisers say. The growth of the defence forces of India in the past has usually been as a reaction to contemporary crises. Resultantly, the defence forces have generally remained unchanged, both structurally and in doctrinal terms, except for incremental changes to meet challenges as they arose. Since the late 1980's, availability of funds has been a major constraint, with allocations for defence being less than 2.5 per cent of the GDP. Morale of the defence forces is an important ingredient for victory. The effect of low morale of the military translates into the weakening of the security of the country.

India needs to ensure a peaceful internal environment, security from external threats and capability to project power in the greater South Asian region. Such an aspiration requires India to modernise its defence forces and equip them with contemporary techno-equipment to meet the expanded roles they would need to perform, while ensuring sustained economic growth and development.

India and Pakistan are the two nuclear states in South Asia, in addition to China, an earlier nuclear power. The risk of a nuclear war in the region stands greatly reduced, but the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missiles is of grave concern, particularly when the countries involved are those which are prone to be



*Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Pritpal & Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati*



*Lt. Gen. Vijay Oberoi presents punctuality award to Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon*



*Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra wins 100 percenters award for March 2013. Congrats to her as she is habitual winner in any contest*

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influenced by terrorist activities, or have a history of promoting terrorists, either as state policy, or by ignoring the rise of religious fundamentalism in their countries, for various reasons.

The General also spoke high of Indians as individuals, whether they are in USA or in the Gulf countries, they have excelled to reach the top levels. Presently two Indians are holding the post of Governors in USA. He also appreciated India's technological developments, particularly in information technology and the

economic growth for which he held former Prime Minister Narsimha Rao on high esteem for putting India ahead on the world map.

Vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon who said, "With his vision Gen. Oberoi has given a very enlightened presentation highlighting the security in our country." He also acknowledged Gen. Oberoi's initiative in looking after the veterans, including the disabled from all three services.

### Rotary Peace Fellowship

President Ritu Singal requests all members to recommend suitable candidates who are graduates with minimum 3 years of relevant experience for Rotary Peace Fellowship - 2014 for consideration and recommendation of the Board of Directors of our club on April 13, 2013.

Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting National and

International cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers and through service activities. Fellows can earn either a master's degree in international relations, public administration, sustainable development, peace studies, conflict resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution.

### Dr. Rita Kalra wins two gold medals



Dr. Rita Kalra receives the medals

At recently held athletic meet for veterans above 35 years by Chandigarh Athletic Association, Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra won 2 gold medals in 100 meter and 200 meter races. The veteran athletic meet is held every year in the states and athletes are selected for National meet where they represent their states.

Dr. Rita Kalra has already represented Haryana, and won silver and bronze medals in obstacle and 200 meter race. She was also selected for International event at Malaysia. She will be attending the National meet at Trivandaram from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

### Microloan for Welder

Rtn. Arjan Singh reports that a loan of Rs. 30,000/- has been given to Mahinder of Ram Darbar Colony. Mahinder is a welder who will start a workshop in Industrial Area, Panchkula. He does job work fabricating doors, windows and grills etc.

### Menials Day celebrated by Rotaract Club Chandigarh Midtown



Exciting games of joy and happiness

Rotaract Club Chandigarh Midtown organized an unprecedented event, that is, Menials Day Celebration in the college premises of Chandigarh College of Engineering and Technology, Sector 26, Chandigarh, to honour the working staff, peons, sweepers and ayahs for the services they have been rendering from the past uncountable years. Games were organized like balloon inflation, singing, dancing, dart game and the winners were rewarded.

They all were honoured with gifts as a token of admiration of their work. Snacks were also arranged for them. President Rtr. Sushant Gupta said, "The excitement on the face of the labour class was evident as they were seen tossing their heads in joy, happiness and gaiety." Following this the students celebrated holy with them. Sushant said, "Tears of joy could be seen and felt by everyone around and the students got the privilege to get the choicest blessings from the labour class."

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Rtn. Darshan Singh Kalsi

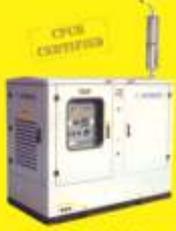
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## **Champions of Change at White House Rotary News -- 5 April 2013**



*12 U.S. Rotarians honored as Champions of Change*

Twelve U.S. Rotarians were honored at the White House on 5 April 2013 as Champions of Change for their efforts to improve communities locally and around the world.

As part of the daylong event, more than 160 Rotarians attended a morning round of briefings by Government officials on topics including polio eradication, health, violence prevention, and the environment. "It is a great honor to see these dedicated Rotary members recognized by the U.S. White House as Champions of Change for their work to improve the lives of people around the world," said RI President Sakuji Tanaka. He said the honorees exemplify how Rotary brings people together to solve problems that are too large for one person to tackle.

"Alone, we look at the problems of our community and our world and we feel helpless," he said. "But together, we are powerful. And through Rotary, we have the power to change our communities and communities throughout the world - now and into the future. We have the ability to build the world we dream of, one that is healthier, happier and with hope for better things to come."

RI General Secretary John Hewko said the 12 Rotarians represent what Rotary is all about, "Committed volunteers working together to improve communities not just in the United States but throughout the world." He said that Rotary is an early and continuing example of organizations that are neither government institutions nor private businesses, that increasingly are joining together to address the world's most pressing problems. He noted how Rotary's partnership with other organizations has nearly eradicated polio worldwide. "When we defeat polio - and, yes, we will defeat this disease - we will prove that there is nothing we cannot accomplish for the good of humanity by working together," he said.

The 12 Rotarians honored as Champions of Change are Tom Barnes, Bob Dietrick, John Germ, Peggy Halderman, Nancy Sanford Hughes, Walter Hughes Jr., Ann Lee Hussey, Jeremiah Lowney Jr., Douglas McNeil, Harriett Schloer, Bonnie Sirower and Neli Vazquez-Rowland.

### **President Ritu Singal's Thought on Peace – Step 35:**

***Promise of unlimited future development lies in nurturing our seed with passion and determination***

Today Brazil is too famous as a leading centre of coffee production. But long ago there was no coffee at all in Brazil. In 1727, when Brazil was a Portuguese colony, a Portuguese explorer visited French Guyana and upon learning about coffee he felt the desire to plant it in his own country. The law of the

country forbade him to do so. But due to his earnestness and zeal, who had slipped in some coffee beans into his pocket when he returned home to Brazil, the Governor General's wife came forward to help him. The present day coffee industry owes its origin to this single handful of coffee beans.

### ***Acknowledgment with thanks***

#### **TRF Contribution – Rotary Foundation**

PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee - Rs. 6000/-

#### **Child's surgery – Rotary Club Chandigarh Heartline Project**

Appeal by Rtn. Kanan Diwan. **Rs. 20000/-** donated by following;

PDG Shaju Peter and PP Subhash Bindra - Rs. 2000/- each

PP B.L. Ramsisaria, Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua, PP Pallav Mukherjee, Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon, Rtn. Maj Gen. Hardev Singh, PE Deepak Sood, PP R.S. Chandgothia, PP Dr. S.K. Sharma, Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, Rtn. D.K. Gupta, President Ritu Singal, Secretary A.K. Puri, Rtn. Mrs. D.K. Singh, Rtn. Arjan Singh, Rtn. Santosh Khaitan and V.P. Sharma - Rs. 1000/- each

### ***Birthday of Rotarians***

Rtn. R.P.S Gulati

Rtn. Maharaj Baksh Singh

IPPRtn. R.K. Luther

Rtn. Brij Mohan Gulati



April 13

April 14

April 15

April 18

### ***Wedding Anniversary***

R'ann Gurpreet & Rtn. Jagpreet Chadha

April 18

### ***Punctuality Draw***

Won by Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon

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