



# The Midtowner

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

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PROGRAMME

## Valedictory Function

Chief Guest: PDG J.P.S. Sibia



Friday, June 14, 2013

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel Gaur, Sector 43, Chandigarh

### Water – Various Aspects and Implications

In our club meeting on June 07, 2013 we had a talk on 'Water – Various Aspects and Implications' by Mr. Tej K. Magazine, Director of Traam Services Pvt. Ltd., Management Consultant and Corporate Trainer, having professional focus on Consultancy, Training, Technology Transfer, Outsourcing and Marketing. He was introduced by PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep as a close friend. Educated in Commerce, Tej is International Trade Centre



Tej K. Magazine

(UNCTAD – WTO) Geneva trained and Certified Consultant on International Purchasing and Supply Chain Management and IIMM Certified Materials Management Expert. He has over 3 decades senior level (including GM/VP positions) techno-commercial experience in Steel, Textiles, Electronics, Pharma industries with Facor, Vardhman, Toshiba Anand, Modis, JCT, Prakash and Ranbaxy. Since over a decade of Consulting in

Strategic Business Management, Marketing, Brand development, Customized Systems and Corporate Communications, he has specialized consultancy experience with Auto Components, Real Estate and Pharmaceutical industries. He is member of various professional organizations and is honored with outstanding MM Consultant Award – 2011 by IIMM. An active Lion, he is recipient of 'Top Ten World Award – 2000' for promotion of International Peace and Understanding from Lions Clubs International and Lions Quest trained and certified teacher for 'Skills for Adolescence Program'. He is 53 times Star Blood Donor. Widely travelled on professional assignments, he has given presentations at national and international conferences.

Mr. Tej Magazine said, "Only two days back, on June 05, 2013, World Environment Day was globally observed, as the day fixed by UN, to remind people every year that there is something known as environment protection or preservation, which has been mercilessly destroyed by humanity, especially in Asian and African region; unmindful of leaving a healthy environment and natural resources, which could take care of future generations."

He added, "India also observes this day as an opportunity for politicians in power to publish their photos with huge advertisements in the name of World Environment Day. But no

ground level activity was reported on the theme of the day, not to speak of water, which is the most important aspect of the Project 'Save Environment'. India, I may mention, loses 10% GDP annually on environment degradation."

Tej said from ancient times various aspects of water have been beautifully, aesthetically and romantically described by poets. Even very famous heroines of movies, for example, Preity Zinta have been discovered from a dip in the water. A Hindi movie is not complete unless the hero and heroine get wet. Shekhar Kapoor has made an exclusive movie on water, titled 'Pani'. He remarked, "Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water! All said and done, water is neither as beautiful, as poets describe it nor as simple as 'Pani da Rang Vekh Ke', sung by our local boy, Ayushmann Khurrana. Today, acute water scarcity is a source of grave danger for the human race."

Talking on International scene, Tej pointed out, "Mother earth has 41 million cubic kilometers of fresh water reserves, equivalent to 3% of total water available. 97% or 1320 million cubic km. is in oceans, in the form of saline water, unfit for human or agro use. I may mention that Israel has successfully developed technology to convert saline water to drinking water."

At this point Rotarians like PDG Shaju Peter and PP Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma responded that India too has successfully developed the desalination technology. The largest desalination plant in South Asia is the Minjur Desalination Plant near Chennai, and another one at Nemmeli, Chennai is also fully functional. Desalination Plant is also going to be functional in Gujarat.

Tej also talked of United Nation's high concern with the gravity of world water situation. It has declared water as human right. This was further followed by UN declaring the year 2003 as 'International Year of Fresh Water', to create awareness on water.

Tej also expressed serious concern for water sharing, control and disputes between various countries, for example, ongoing water disputes between India and Pakistan.

He also focused on India's water scenario, which he termed as horrible. A couple of years back, WHO made a study of water quality in 122 countries. India got placed at bottom ranking 120. Over 250 million Indians do not have access to safe drinking water. 1.1 million liters of sewage enters the holy Ganga every day, according to WHO. In the capital of India, in spite of repeated intervention by Supreme Court, Yamuna continues to flow as dirty as ever!



Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua presents a memento to Mr. Tej Magazine



Mr. Tej Magazine presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Sudha and Secretary Rtn. Ashok K. Puri



R'ann Indu Luthra highlights exceptional leadership qualities of President Rtn. Ritu Singal for achieving great success this year

In Punjab ground water level has drastically gone down. National Geophysical Research Institute mentions that ground water level in Punjab is going down by 60 cm every year. Punjab has, in less than 30 years, used ground water reserves built up over the last 105 years. Water table has depleted in 110 out of 138 blocks of land under paddy cultivation. Paddy cultivation in 2013 is planned to reduce from 28.18 lakh hectares to 27.68 lakh hectares. Tej pointed out, "Alternate crops like maize, pulses, vegetables, cotton etc., are being encouraged. Centre is doling out subsidies and incentives to states for crop diversification and environment friendly farm techniques."



Mr. Tej presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Dr. Joginder and PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee



PP Pallav Mukherjee bags the punctuality award

The politics of water in the country is evident from Cauvery dispute in South, SYL Canal in North and Narmada Dam in Gujarat. He said, "Any such issue flares up now and then, as suited to politicians from time to time, like CM's of Delhi and Haryana, belonging to same political party, threatening each other for inadequate water supply to Delhi, just to befool people of their respective states. Failure of monsoons results in dent to political parties, on their vote banks, especially in rural areas."

Tej discussed the impact of water on the social fabric of the country. A year back, one person was killed and six injured in Neemuch in MP, when people fought for water with sword. Such reports of violence for a pale of water can be read in newspapers, from time to time, especially in summer. It is common practice in rural India that higher caste people do not allow lower caste people to draw water from village wells.

To save and conserve water for the nation, all industries need to buy

plant & machinery and technologies which consume least water, avoid water discharge in public system and maximize usage of recycled water. Advanced technologies in Western world convert recycled water, fully fit and safe for even drinking. An example to drive the point through is that of Paper manufacturing. Traditional technology practiced by quite a few paper mills, consumes as high as 300 kl. of water for producing one ton of paper, against 25 kl. and less per ton, as per modern technology.

Making Rain water harvesting mandatory and compulsory, for each house on a land area of 250 sq. mtrs and above, gated communities, commercial, industrial, government buildings and public parks. One can take assistance for implementing rain water harvesting from [www.rainwaterharvesting.org](http://www.rainwaterharvesting.org) and [www.wotr.org](http://www.wotr.org).

Most of the "water wars" between the States are pending in form of law suits in High Courts or the Supreme Court. This includes the case related to dispute between Punjab and Haryana on sharing of

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Kajauli Phase V & VI water, in the High Court. Whereas, the judiciary is quite cautious in such cases, the states try to circumvent the directions or judgments, on one plea or the other, including flaring up people sentiments.

Tej ended his talk with an appeal that members of organizations like Rotary and Lions, who are capable of understanding the importance of using 'Water' and its use optimally, and we realize that only by efficient management of this natural resource, we would contribute to an equitable and fair availability for all stakeholders. He concluded, "We all must take a pledge to Efficient Water Resources Management and Conservation."

Expressing thanks on behalf of our club, Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua said, "May Mr. Tej Magazine spread his message on water with full vigour and energy." Dr. Dua thanked him on behalf of our club for his impressive talk on the matter which is our prime requirement for all times to come.

## Reflection and Action

By: Rtn. Ashok Mahajan, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation

The 'Polio Eradication Champion Award' was given to Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi at an impressive ceremony on May 17, 2013 at the Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi. Mrs. Sheila Dikshit is an Indian politician who has served as Chief Minister of Delhi since 1998. She is a member of the Indian National Congress and has led the party to a record three consecutive electoral victories in Delhi.

Accepting the award, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit said that she was humbled and accepted the honour on behalf of the citizens of Delhi who had taken a giant step in supporting the polio immunisation drive of Rotary International and the Government of India. International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC) Chair Dr. Robert Scott who gave away the award has dedicated his life to the children of the world who were struggling with immobility. This time around, he was very happy to be in India for the National PolioPlus Orientation and Planning Meet since the country was taken off the list of polio endemic countries and literally we are very close to being certified as a polio-free country and region in 2014.

India would not have been able to eradicate polio without the help of national leaders such as Mrs. Sheila Dikshit. Many of the stories in our archives have reports of the volunteers and medical team members who have travelled to every nook and corner of the country to bring hope, dignity and mobility to thousands of people.

As a member of the IPPC, I have been able to reflect on the immense help and co-operation received from the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the



Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister, Delhi receiving the Citation.

administration of Delhi in our efforts to eradicate polio. The Rotary volunteers helped The Rotary Foundation to mobilise funds. In my travels on the road to eradication of polio, I have found my purpose in life.

It is said that a life without hope is life without meaning. There are some experiences that change you forever. A small group of thoughtful people have shown that they can change the world. It is the only thing that ever has. Leaders of countries and the various States have told Rotary that they are not only willing to give financial and logistical support but also give their friendship and love for the cause Rotary is pioneering.

The presence of stalwarts such as PRIP Kalyan Banerjee during the awards function added more meaning to our crusade against polio.

I am reminded of the famous quote of Robert Byrne, the famous American author. He said, "The purpose of life is a life of purpose." Reflecting on why we are in Rotary, I can only say that our purpose in life is eradication of polio and fulfilling our promise to millions of children around the world.



Rtn. Ashok Mahajan  
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation  
Director, Rotary International  
2007-2009  
Member, International PolioPlus  
Committee  
Chairman, Rotary International  
Membership Committee, 2012-13

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## **Congratulations to proud grandparents R'ann Shashi and PP Dr. Balram Gupta**

Our heartiest congratulations to R'ann Shashi and PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta as their son, Shireesh and daughter-in-law, Shirpa have been blessed with daughter, Myra on May 14, 2013.

### **Ten Chandigarh Midtowners registered for RI Convention in Lisbon**



It is a great opportunity to meet community, business and professional leaders from all over the world and broaden your understanding of Rotary by attending the 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal on 23-26 June, 2013.

Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown would be represented by PDG Shaju Peter, who will be attending his 5<sup>th</sup> RI Convention, and R'ann Lovy Peter. Other Rotarians from our club are PP Gurdip S. Deep and R'ann Maniki Deep, President Ritu Singal and her daughters Ishani & Inayat, Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Rita Kalra and Dr. Sanjay Kalra, and Rtn. Amarjit Singh.

More Rotarians can be part of the RI Convention at Lisbon, as the last chance to register online is 15 June 2013.

### **President Ritu Singal's Thought on Peace** **Sulking will bring misery but a determination can find solution to anything**

Once a son of old parents get imprisoned. While in jail he keeps worrying about his old parents that how will they plough fields alone and how will they survive. But he determines to do something to help his parents. He writes a letter in which he mentions about some hidden weapons in the fields. He hands over this letter to the jailer to deliver it to his parents. As the letter got censored so the

police goes to his house to deliver it. As the old man opens the door, the police official pushes him to reach the fields and orders their people to dig out the whole fields to take out all weapons. They keep digging but all in vain. The whole fields were dug by now. So friends, rather than sulking lets determine to find solution for any given situation.

#### **Acknowledgment with thanks**

##### **Donations for Club Projects:**

R'ann Dr. Joginder & PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee Rs. 1100/-  
PP T.S. Anand and Secretary Rtn. Ashok K. Puri will sponsor cocktails for the Valedictory Function on 14 June 2013

##### **Punctuality Draw**

Won by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee

#### **Birthday of Spouses**

R'ann Suman Gupta

June 14

#### **Birthday of Rotarians**

PP Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon

June 15

#### **Wedding Anniversary**

R'ann Paramjeet & Rtn. R.S. Sihota

June 19



**PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter**

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