



# The Midtowner



**Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.L. District 3080**

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Club No. 15228

[www.rotarychdmidtown.org](http://www.rotarychdmidtown.org)

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Deepak Sood

**Secretary**  
Dr. Rita Kalra

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

Volume XXXVIII No. 11 Dated: September 10, 2013

PROGRAMME

**Financial Planning – Shifting Paradigms**

*Chief Guest: Mr. Vipul Thakkar*

Head of Investment Advisory Division

Principal Retirement Advisors

Friday, September 13, 2013

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

## **Sail to Serve – Rotary Institute on a Cruise, Singapore to Singapore**

In our regular meeting on September 06, 2013 PDG Shaju Peter gave an interesting presentation, 'Sail to Serve – Rotary Institute on a Cruise, Singapore to Singapore'. This was the Rotary Institute 2013 for Zones 4, 5 and 6A held on August 25-28, 2013. President Deepak Sood greeted Shaju with a quote by Woodrow Wilson, "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision..... You are here to enrich the world."



*PDG Shaju Peter explains the concept of 'Sail to Serve'*

Explaining the concept of Rotary Institute PDG Shaju said, "Rotary Institute is an annual gathering of Governors, Past, Present and Future of a particular region." All these years the Institute was being held in India. We also had one in Chandigarh in Rotary year 2006-07. Shaju said, "The Institute is an event which is convened by the current RI Director of the Zone." Therefore the responsibility of this year's Institute was on RI Director

(2013-15) P.T. Prabhakaran from Chennai and his wife, Nalini who had a dream of having the Institute this year on a cruise with a message, "Come, together, let us 'Sail to Serve' to meet and greet each other, exchange ideas and debate on how to take Rotary forward." Shaju remarked, "Getting the Governors of this region on the cruise for the Rotary Institute was a brilliant idea."

In addition to zones 4, 5 and 6A, comprising of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, there were Governors from zone 6B, that is, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There were 17 delegates from Pakistan.

It was the first time this year that Rotary Institute was held in 'Singapore to Singapore' on a Cruise. Shaju described in details through a colorful PowerPoint presentation about the ship, which was the 13 storey high Super Star Virgo, the largest cruise ship in Star Cruises Asian fleet with 915 cabins with capacity of having 1830 passengers. The facilities include 13 restaurants and bars offering international cuisine to satisfy all tastes, show lounge, cinema, karaoke, disco, swimming pool, beauty salon, rock climbing facilities and meeting rooms. It also had variety of world class entertainment programs onboard to ensure spectacular experience to cruisers of all ages. The cruise started from Singapore via Malaysia, and took 26 hours to reach Phuket in Thailand, and then it was back to Singapore.

Shaju also showed us the flag ceremony, which is a compulsory program of all global functions whether it be Rotary International Convention or Assembly, which is a representation of all participating countries, so there were flags of USA, South Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Burma, and the Rotary flag.

Shaju said that one of the main features of Rotary institute is the presence of RI President or someone of that rank like Immediate Past RI President or RI President Elect. In this institute RI President Ron Burton and Jetta were there. The Rotary Foundation also has to be represented in the institute for which TRF Chair D.K. Lee was present. From India there were PRIP Raja Saboo, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, PRID Sudarshan Aggarwal, PRID Sushil Gupta, PRID Yash Das, PRID Shekhar Mehta, RIDN (Nominating Committee's choice) Manoj Desai. From Sri Lanka RIPN (Nominating Committee's choice) K.R. Ravindran was also present.

Shaju said it was a privilege to listen to the following Rotary Leaders at the Rotary Institute 2013;



*Ron Burton*



*D.K. Lee*



*Raja Saboo*



*Kalyan Banerjee*



*K.R. Ravindran*

RI President Ron Burton gave an inspiring presentation on his theme, 'Engage Rotary – Change Lives'. His message was, “You can take a Rotarian to your club. But success of the club depends on how you transform him into a true Rotarian. In the process of doing Rotary's work you change the lives of people whom you help. Whenever you do an act of service in Rotary the person who is most satisfied is not the beneficiary, but yourself.”

Shaju said in all institutes there are external speakers to inspire



*R'anns and Rotarians show great interest in Shaju's excellent 'Sail to Serve' presentation*

the Governors on the current theme of Rotary. These reputed speakers enlightened the participants of the institute with contemporary topics of interests. Sri Mahatria Ra who is considered a spiritual leader and a Living Master for by his students, is the Founder of Alma Mater, an organization dedicated to self mastery and holistic personality development, with a mission to work towards the betterment of the individual, the society and the world. He guides people in their quest for self realization, to transform them to emerge as better citizens of the world.

The other speaker Dr. Ms. Sunita Krishnan, a gang rape victim herself, elaborated on how we can work to 'Engage Rotary –



*Rtn. Arjan Singh thanks PDG Shaju Peter for being a treasure house of Rotary information*



*PDG Shaju Peter presents wedding anniversary gift to R'tnn Kund Bala & PP Rtn. R.K. Goyal.*



*President Deepak Sood and Secretary Dr. Rita Kalra present punctuality award to PDG Shaju*

Change Lives'. Born in 1972, she did her B.Sc. (Environmental Science), M.Sc., (Psychiatric Social Work) and Ph.D (Social Work). She is an Indian social activist, Chief Functionary and Co-Founder of Prajwala, based in Hyderabad, an institution that cares for trafficked women and girls. She works in the areas of anti-human trafficking, psychiatric rehabilitation and social policy. She admitted that rescuing girls is never a very safe business, yet she goes ahead with her mission.

The institute also had Naing Ko Ko, a Rotary Peace Scholar from Burma, who has worked on the Thai-Burma border in the areas of democracy, human rights, national reconciliation and economic development.

Shaju said Rotarians like PP Prem Anand who are regular visitors to Malaysia, must have got the cruise experience. But for those who have not yet experienced it, Shaju's inspiring presentation would certainly lead them to the cruise as their next holiday destination!



*R'ann Lovy Peter*

From Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, in addition to PDG Shaju and Lovy, Rtn. Mrs. Kanan Diwan was also in the Institute with her husband PDG Yoginder Diwan for the enjoyable and memorable three night

four days cruise aboard the luxurious Super Star liner.

R'ann Lovy Peter also shared her experience on the cruise. She said, “Rotary is not only a worldwide service organization, but it is also a worldwide family organization. It is one family and there is no distinction.” She narrated their own personal episode of Shaju leaving his mobile phones at the airport during security check, and how Rotarians unknown to them, helped to retrieve

the mobile phones from the customs there and bring the mobiles to Karur in Tamil Nadu, and then from there too Rotarians further ensured that the mobiles reaches Shaju through a special messenger, because the courier companies were

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helpless, bound by the rules! Lovy urged the Rotarians, particularly the new ones, that where ever they go, they must wear the Rotary pin, and visit the Rotary clubs there to experience their friendship and fellowship.

### Shaju our District Trainer in RY 2014-15

PDG Shaju Peter would be our District Trainer in Rotary year 2014-15, for which on August 24, 2013 he attended the District Trainers Training Programme at Hotel Grand Copthorn Waterfront, Singapore, a famous garden city which is known for

President Deepak invited Rtn. Arjan Singh to propose formal vote of thanks. Arjan said, "As usual Shaju is a treasure house of Rotary information. Thank you Shaju, and you inspire others into following your footsteps."

traditional styles and for combining the cultural strengths of the east and the west, with ethnic characteristics from the Chinese, Malaysian and Indian cultures.



President Deepak Sood presents wedding anniversary gift to R'tn. Lovy & PDG Rtn. Shaju Peter. Looking on is Secretary Dr. Rita



PDG Shaju Peter presents birthday gift to Dr. Sanjay Kalra through Secretary Dr. Rita Kalra. Looking on is President Deepak Sood

### Larry Long is DGN RI District 6110, USA

PDG Shaju informed about the sad demise of DGN of RI District 6110 Mark Dobbs due to tragic accident on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Gift of Hearing project of our club has the Rotary Club of Fayetteville of

District 6110 as our International Partners, which was initiated through its Immediate Past President Rtn. Larry Long, who has now been designated as DGN of District 6110.

### District Rotaract Presidential meet

RI District 3080 Presidential meet for Zone -2, Amaze - Vivifying targets was organised by Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown with support of our club at Hotel President on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2013. The event was chaired by DRR Ms. Jasmeet Kaur, and was attended by Presidents and Secretaries of various Rotaract clubs.

District agendas of the upcoming months were discussed. Our Signature Project, 'Save the girl child', was discussed in detail and was adopted as a District Program. It is expected that the blue-print of the whole program would be out by the end of this month. This event was attended by PDG Shaju Peter, Vice President Rtn. Amarjit Singh, Secretary Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra and Director Youth Service Rtn. Salil Bali.



Rotarians and Rotaractors

Further our Rotaract Club is partnering with Rotaract Shivalik and Rotaract Soaring monks for a joint project on forming a human chain on Madhya Marg on October 1, 2013 for motivating people to donate blood. They have also taken the responsibility of Membership access of all clubs of zone-2.

We wish our Rotaractors all the best.

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