

# The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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

Club No. 15228  
R.I. District 3080

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District Governor  
David Hilton

President  
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary  
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor  
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 38 Dated: March 22, 2016

## PROGRAMME

### Holi Celebrations

Enjoy the festival of colours with flowers  
Lots of fun, fellowship and dinner

For our Rotarians and spouses there will be no registration charges  
(Registrations for guests Rs. 700/- and children Rs. 550/-)

Please note  
the change in date,  
time and venue of  
the meeting



Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Golf Club, Chandigarh

## Walk of Hope from Kanyakumari to Srinagar

In our regular meeting on March 18, 2016 we were lucky to have the gracious presence of a great Spiritual Guide Sri M as our Chief Guest. In her welcome address President Rtn. Kanan Diwan said, "We honour you and extend a very hearty welcome to you and your team."



Sri M

She also welcomed Mr. Patil, a guest of Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor and her sister-in-law Mrs. Santosh Ambasna.

Introducing the Chief Guest, PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep said Sri M (Mumtaz Ali Khan) is a spiritual guide, social reformer and educationist, born into a Muslim family on November 6, 1949 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. His transformational journey, from a young boy to a living yogi, is a fascinating story symbolized by single

mind discipline and dedication. Entranced by mystical stories of Sufi saints at a relatively young age, he was not only drawn to the 'truth' but also the compelling landscape of the snow-clad Himalayas. At the age of nine, his spiritual transformation was initiated by his Master, Maheshwarnath Babaji. His Master then encouraged him to return to the plains, and to start a family life and prepare for his life's mission. Few years after his Master passed away, he received the spiritual go-ahead to commence his mission. In 1998 he started his teachings, eventually leading to formation of the Satsang Foundation. He is married and has two children. He leads a simple life, teaching and guiding the Satsang Foundation and Manav Ekta Mission.

Before talking about his mission, Sri M said, "I have addressed many Rotary clubs from the time we started the walk and even before, including outside India. What I like the best about Rotarians is your motto, 'Service above Self'. This is the most important thing. If everybody gets this into their minds and is put into action, we would be living in a golden beautiful world."

He explained that the Walk of Hope is a padayatra for peace and harmony by the Manav Ekta Mission, covering 7500 kms from

Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Led by Sri M, founder of Manav Ekta Mission, the journey spans 15-18 months through 11 Indian states, bringing together citizens from all walks of life. The Walk of Hope was flagged off on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the birthday of a great prophet of interfaith harmony, Swami Vivekananda. Starting from the Gandhi Memorial Mandapam in Kanyakumari and concluding in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, this initiative is hoped to reach out to 10 million fellow Indians.

The padayatra covers 15-20 kms a day and halt in the evening at a pre-determined village or town enroute. The evening is spent meeting with the local people which includes meaningful dialogues, inter-faith prayers, eating together and resting overnight at their homes. A diverse assembly of responsible citizens, who foresee a united and inclusive India for themselves and the future generations, are accompanying Sri M in this walk. The Walk of Hope is an exercise to restore the innate spirituality of the nation, rekindling true faith and rejuvenating the spirit of hope, love, peace, harmony and oneness. The hope is to erase disparities arising from a misunderstanding of our diverse culture and religions, thus uniting the humanity of India through a spiritual approach, proving people can live together despite all differences.

Sri M talked of harmony in India. He said, "We have so many ideologies and if you ask anyone in the street he will proudly say that he is an Indian. This is the glory of our country. India is one of



President Kanan Diwan presents a memento to Sri M.  
Looking on is Rtn. Salil Bali



*National anthem by PP Rtn. Saroj Jhawar and President Nominee Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra*

the greatest countries in the world. There is no country in the world where you can find such unity in diversity. Let us all hold it together.”

The divisive forces may try to break us but Sri M's walk for hope is a very appreciable effort to see that this does not happen. He wants to plant the seeds of unity in the youth of our country. He also quoted Guru Nanak Dev ji who had travelled a lot in those days to preach that all human beings are equal. He also quoted the Vedas where it is mentioned that there is one truth, though it has different names.

He also clarified that in his name Sri M, 'M' stands for his name, Mumtaz, his Master Maheshwarnath Babaji and for Manav ekta. Depicting equality for all religions Sri M concluded his talk with, “Namaskar, Sat Siri Akal and Salaam!”

Rtn. Salil Bali thanked Sri M for giving us the message of wisdom, “Manav ekta, Shanti and Sadbhawna.”



*PP Rtn. Gurdip Singh Deep introducing the chief guest*



*Glimpses of the week by Jt. Secretary Rtn. Salil Chopra*



*Successful appeal for scholarship support by Rtn. Arjan Singh*



*Vote of thanks by Rtn. Salil Bali*



*President Kanan Diwan presents birthday gift to PP Rtn. Ritu Singal. Looking on is Joint Secretary Rtn. Salil Chopra*



*President Kanan Diwan presents punctuality award to Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain. Looking on is Joint Secretary Rtn. Salil Chopra*



*Our Vice President Rtn. Ashok Puri and R'ann Sudha visited Rotary Club of Calcutta on 15-03-2016 and enjoyed their fellowship. Rtn. Ashok Puri also exchanged flags with President Ashok Basu, which he presented to our President in our last regular meeting*



*Towards total literacy*

*Presidential Conference in Kolkata*



*Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra at Women's day celebration at Maloya Vocational centre. Talk on literacy, health sanitation and distribution of sanitary napkins by Rotaractors of Chandigarh Midtown. 25 ladies and 3 teachers participated along with 5 Rotaractors*



*L-R: Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, Rtn. Rekha Sawhney, R'ann Indu Anand, R'ann Sudha Puri, PDG Shaju Peter, PRIP Rajendra K. Saboo, PP Prem Anand, PP Indrajeet Sengupta, Rtn. Ashok Puri and R'ann Malabika Sengupta at the Literacy and Wash in Schools Presidential Conference in Kolkata*

## Literacy and Wash in Schools Presidential Conference in Kolkata

Source: <http://www.eflashonline.org>

Due to the success it achieved in its Polio Eradication project, Rotary India has strategised the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) to ensure 'Total Literacy & Quality Education' for India through its 'T-E-A-C-H' programme. Carrying forward its annual footprints to bring into focus and applaud the unsung people as well as organisations that have been working to spread the joys of literacy across India, RILM is going to ink several MoUs with various stakeholders, including Kailash Satyarthi Foundation, at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on March 12, 2016.

Delivering his welcome address at the Rotary International Literacy & Wash in Schools Presidential Conference in Kolkata, Rotary International Director Dr. Manoj Desai said, "It is one of the five Presidential Conferences with the highest attendance – 2500. I am looking forward to yet another fascinating day. I know the organisational capability of Rotary India Literacy Mission Chair Shekhar Mehta. The presence of Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi itself is an attraction for all delegates."

Speaking on behalf of all the out of school children, Nobel Laurate Kailash Satyarthi called upon all Rotarians present at the venue to give each such children education, in exchange of which the children will give us a better and progressive world in the future. Urging upon the hall full of powerhouse Rotarian change makers, he said, "The fire of knowledge should be converted into prosperity and development for all. The road to sustained economic growth, inclusive development and social justice passes only through education. The moment the door of a classroom opens for a child, millions of doors of opportunities opens for that child."

Citing the important role that all Rotarians played in polio eradication in the past, he urged the Rotary family to "now begin a newer and better challenge to fight the polio of illiteracy that is mental, social and economic ailment."

Speaking about Rotary India Literacy Mission's (RILM) holistic

approach towards the uplift of education, RILM Chairperson Shekhar Mehta said, "We send children back to school that we will make happy schools to reduce the dropout rate. We equip schools with best teaching facilities and smart classes in even rural areas so that the rural children get a platform equal to their urban counterparts. For these schools, we undertake teacher training programmes in collaboration with the government and other stakeholders."

Rotary has applauded the works of 4700 teachers, trained 2317 teachers, set up over 5000 e-learning centres, taught 61,200 adults through school students, sent 27,000 children back to school and turned 737 schools into Happy Schools. Living upto Manoj Desai's dream that Rotary will be labelled as the "Preferred Partner", Ekta Sodha, the Vice-President of National Independent Schools Alliance, promised, "I will be available whenever Rotary needs me."

Expressing happiness at getting associated with Rotary, Anubhav Kapoor from Tata Technologies Ltd stated, "Every profit we earn is given back to society through education." Emphasising that Rotary should work to further the cause of women education in the rural area, Dr. S.Y. Shah, the director of International Institute of Adult & Lifelong Education, rued that "India has the largest number of illiterates in the world. Though condition in urban area is better, the condition in rural area is very bad." Emphasising the need to involve youths in taking literacy mission forward, Dr. Sunita Gandhi said, "Rotary India is already working with our Global dream project, under which each school child is going to teach one illiterate adult." Thomas Thorfinnson dwelt upon the necessity of digitalization in today's fast changing world. Continuing in the same vein, an educationist from Maharashtra, Sandeep Gund stated how he transformed the village school from regular classes to digitally smart school.

 															
<p>Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia</p>															
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## Kayakalp Awardee



Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra receives Kayakalp award for best District Hospital in Haryana in the National Felicitation of Kayakalp Awardees by Mr. J.P. Nadda, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare on 16.03.2016 at New Delhi



District Golf Tournament hosted by our club at Golf Club, Chandigarh on Sunday, March 20, 2016. Please see report in our next bulletin



The coffee table book for best practices in the country has a page dedicated to herbal garden set up by Rotary Chandigarh Midtown. Dr. Rita Kalra is on extreme right and there was also Rs. 51 Lakh award for Civil Hospital, Panchkula

### Acknowledgement with thanks

Donations for Scholarship - in response to appeal by Rtn. Arjan Singh:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Mr. Ashwani Bhateja                                    | Rs. 2500/-  |
| Diwan Devi Dyal Shakuntla Charitable Trust, Chandigarh | Rs. 20000/- |
| Rtn. R.S. Sihota                                       | Rs. 2000/-  |
| PP Rtn. Ritu Singal                                    | Rs. 2000/-  |
| Rtn. Ashok Puri  | Rs. 2500/-  |
| Mrs. Santosh Ambasna                                   | Rs. 3000/-  |

### Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Ajay K. Gupta March 29



### Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain



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