

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

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President
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 06 Dated: August 11, 2015

PROGRAMME

Independence Day Celebrations

Friday, August 14, 2015

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Kargil War and Kautilya Wisdom

In our regular meeting on August 07, 2015 Rtn. Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh, KC, AVSM (Veteran) gave a very informative and thought provoking audio visual presentation on 'Kargil War and Kautilya Wisdom'. He was introduced by Rtn. Maj. Gen. R.S. Chopra, VSM (Veteran) who gave a brief detail of Gen. Hardev Singh's journey in the army. He joined National Defence Academy in 1969, and was commissioned in to Rajput Regiment as a 2nd Lt in June 1973. During his 37 years of service, he gained more than an officer's usual share of experience in fields of 'Leadership', 'Management', 'Strategic Planning and Execution'. As a young officer he was awarded a very high ranking gallantry award of Kirti Chakra, which is peace time equivalent of Maha Vir Chakra during war. He was also awarded AVSM for distinguished service. He also wrote 'India's Nuclear Doctrine' on behalf of the Army. Besides having done Command and General Staff Course at USA, he has also done merit based courses of Higher Command and National Defence College. After retirement he has done lot of social work and promotes 'happy thoughts' as he is instrumental in running Tricity's centre of an unique NGO, Tej Gyan Foundation, where different programs such as 'Training of the Mind' and 'Spirituality by Experience' are conducted free of cost. As an active and dedicated Rotarian of our club he was Director Club Services in 2013-14. He became a PHF before his induction as a Rotarian in June 2012. He also has a deep interest in nutritional medicine. Last year he completed his two years studies and obtained first division in Bachelor's Degree in Alternative Medicine from Indian Board of Alternative Medicine Kolkata.



Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh

Gen. Hardev Singh showed a very touching movie based on the Kargil war, 'Are you a Dangerous Optimist?' This movie is on valour and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, especially the young brave-hearts, which can not be expressed in words, and can only be felt by watching the video recording of a presentation by Anuradha Prabhudesai. It is therefore, recommended to watch this 16 minutes, must-watch video by clicking on the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1Bn3ITr73g>.

Gen. Hardev Singh's presentation described the advice given to the king by Chankya, traditionally identified as Kautilya, who had said, "While the citizenry of the State contributes to see that the State prospers and flourishes, the soldier guarantees that it continues to exist as a State! To this man, O Rajadhiraja, you owe a debt: please, therefore, see to it, on your own, that the soldier continuously gets

his dues in every form and respect, be they his needs or his wants, for he is unlikely to ask for them himself. It is my bounden duty to assure you, My Lord that the day when the Mauryan soldier has to demand his dues or, worse, plead for them, will neither have arrived overnight nor in vain. It will also bode ill for Magadha. For then, on that day, you, My Lord, will have lost all moral sanction to be King!"

The General said, "While the Indian Soldier has been dedicatedly performing his role of protecting the country as per Kautilya Wisdom, today's situation where Indian Veterans' and many widows are sitting on relay hunger strike for past two months demanding One Rank One Pension (OROP) has given rise to very serious questions for India: Does the modern day king, that is, the Government of India feel that it owes a debt to soldier? Does the Govt. of its own ensure that the soldier continuously gets his dues in every form and respect? OR if the Govt. is doing everything, has the Indian soldier turned so greedy, and lost his self respect to sit on relay hunger strike and dharnas asking for money like beggars? Has present state arrived overnight that soldiers are on the roads asking for their legitimate dues? Is the Govt. morally right to deny OROP? Is it beginning of national downfall?" Lack of wisdom and too much trust in new political masters by Army leaders of that era, allowed the bureaucracy to creep, slowly trespass upon soldier's rights, privileges, dignity, and degrade military status as well as pay structure. Senior Army Officers foolishly followed Kautilya Wisdom as asking for money, even for their men was not considered a military value. But they are always there even to selflessly take up any rescue operations when a calamity arises.

The problem gets acute as soldier retires at young age of around 35 years, when his children are school going and he starts getting pension of around 41% of the last pay drawn. He receives benefit of one Central Pay Commission (CPC) held during his service. Compared to him a civilian employee receives benefits of 3 to 4 CPCs before he retires at 60 years, and thus a civilian's pay at the time of retirement is 7 to 9 times that of the soldier, which helps him to have a comfortable retired life, having no liabilities, as his children by then are married and well settled. OROP implies that uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the

PP Dr. Balram Gupta presents a memento to Gen. Hardev Singh





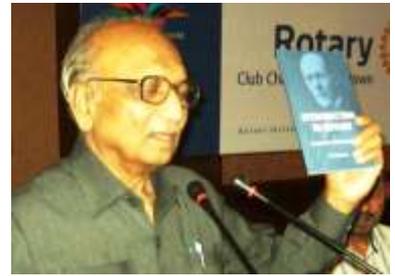
R'ann Ritu Bhatia and Rtn. Dr. Manisha Sahni - National Anthem



Rtn. Deepa Bhar Invocation



Rtn. Maj. Gen. R.S. Chopra Introducing the Speaker



An useful publication on Rotary Information by PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria – a 'must read' book

same rank with the same length of service irrespective of their date of retirement and any future enhancement in the rates of pension to be automatically passed on to the past pensioners.

Gen. Hardev Singh also highlighted hundreds of cases being fought by MOD against its own disabled soldiers in order to deny them the benefits of disability pension, which doesn't speak good of the country. He concluded very emphatically, emphasizing that the

present state has very serious implications and must be resolved in line with Kautilya Wisdom.

PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta presented formal vote of thanks. He said Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh's bold presentation was an education for us. In the interest of our country let us hope that the Veterans would be victorious in their fight for OROP.



Dr. Manisha Sahni, accompanied by her husband Dr. Rohit Sahni and daughter Asmita, inducted as a Rotarian by Rtn. Dr. Prof. I.S. Dua, President Rtn. Kanan Diwan and Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia



President Kanan Diwan presents scholarship cheques of Rs. 25000/- each to Sharda Sablok and Priyanka Gupta, introduced by Rtn. Arjan Singh. Looking on is Shalaka Luthra (extreme left), who is our ex-Scholar, well placed now, who expressed her gratitude for support she got from our club, and Arjan as her mentor



President Kanan Diwan presents birthday gifts to (L-R:) PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria, Rtn. Deepa Bhar, R'ann Brij Bala Handa and R'ann Guninder Dua, through her husband Rtn. Dr. Prof. I.S. Dua, as she is in England



President Kanan Diwan presents birthday gifts to (L-R:) Rtn. Ashok Kumar Sharma, R'ann Shivani Kapur, wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Beena and Rtn. Viney B. Aggarwal, who also gets punctuality award. Looking on are Rtn. Maj. Gen. Hardev Singh and Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

Membership Development and Rotary Public Image Seminar

Membership Development and Rotary Public Image Seminar, 'Pratibimb', will be held on Sunday, 23rd August 2015, hosted by Rotary Club of Roorkee Midtown at the beautifully landscaped Rajwada Farms, Roorkee. Registration: Upto 15th August 2015 - Rs. 950/- (single) Rs. 1600/- (couple). After 15th August - Rs. 1100/- (single) Rs. 1750/- (couple).

Installation of Interact Club and Tree Plantation



Installation of Interact team by President Kanan Diwan, Vice President Ashok Puri and Director Youth Service Sundeeep Sawhney



Tree plantation in Kundan School

Installation of Interact Club of Kundan Public School, Sector 46, Chandigarh was carried out by our club on 7th August 2015 in the presence of: President Rtn. Kanan Diwan, Vice President Rtn. Ashok K. Puri, Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia, President Elect Rtn. Amarjit Singh, Director Community Service Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, Director Youth Service Rtn. Sundeeep Singh Sawhney, Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Shashi Jain and Rtn. Rekha Sawhney.

The team for 2015-16 consisting of Muskaan (President), Akanksha (Vice President) and Kashish (Secretary), and the

students. A beautiful cultural bonanza was presented by the participating students.

There was also a tree plantation programme and 'Herbal Garden' was also inaugurated in the premises of the school, which was appreciated by Principal, Mrs. Manjeet Jauhar who lauded the efforts of the Rotarians of Chandigarh Midtown. Dr. Shashi Jain, who is also the Trustee of the school, commended the work done by the students in the previous year and inspired them to work harder and reach new heights.

PDG Shaju speaks on Rotary history at Panchkula



Shaju with Panchkula Rotarians

Invited by President Jivan Aggarwal, PDG Shaju Peter was at Panchkula at their weekly meeting on July 29, 2015 as the Guest Speaker. Shaju was formally introduced by PP Mohinder Nandwani.

The topic was Rotary history and its achievements. President Aggarwal has inducted quite a few new members in the club and his ambition is to register a growth of 100% in the current Rotary year by taking the membership to 60 plus.

It was heartening for Shaju and Lovy to interact with new Rotarians and spouses.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and WinS Orientation programme

Orientation programme on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Wash in Schools (WinS) was organized at the District Headquarters at Rotary House in Sector 18, Chandigarh on August 07, 2015 by PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, State Coordinator for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Chandigarh and Punjab), RI District 3080. Presidents of Rotary Clubs in Chandigarh and Punjab were invited for the orientation

programme to familiarize them with these projects and demonstrate how they can implement it.

The Counsellor of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of our District is PRIP Rajendra K. Saboo, who is the author of our commitment for this mission on all India basis, had already participated in three cleanliness drives of our club.

Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

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The orientation programme started with an inspiring welcome address by PDG Manmohan Singh who is the Chairman of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, RI District 3080 and District Co-Ordinator Wash in Schools (WinS).

While giving an informative presentation on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Dr. Vohra referred to the Swachh Bharat Declaration at Rotary Governors' Conference at Chennai in December 2014 which was signed by Union Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu and RI Director P.T. Prabhakar. He also referred to the pledge taken by Rotary Chandigarh Midtown on 2nd October 2014, the day Prime Minister of India had launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Dr. Vohra was also pleased to read the message of DG David Hilton in which he said, "Please do convey my best wishes to all the participants for the success of the programme and I'm confident that your deliberations will be meaningful and result oriented. All the best and eagerly awaiting to hear the outcome of your initiative that will set a bench mark in the District that will be worthy of emulation."

There was another message from DGE Raman Aneja, the Co-Chair of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, "Congratulations as you move forward on the orientation program on WinS and Swachh Bharat. Keep the

moment high and this event will enhance the drive by evolving the Presidents of Punjab and Chandigarh Clubs."

Rtn. Salil Chopra, State Coordinator for WinS (Chandigarh and Punjab) gave an elaborate presentation, showing present scenario in rural areas which are in horrible condition. His presentation had graphs, technical details and a concrete plan on how to tackle this deplorable situation to implement our WinS programme successfully.

PDG Shaju Peter thanked PDG Manmohan Singh, AG Vivek Gupta and all other delegates who participated in the orientation programme. He also complimented PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra for initiating the orientation programme.



Orientation programme under progress



The orientation programme was followed by a cleanliness drive at Sector 17, Chandigarh which was organized by Rotary Chandigarh Midtown, supported by Police Post Neelam, in which Presidents and Rotarians of Chandigarh and Punjab participated. The differently abled persons were part of this drive, and if these special persons can do it, why not others!

Acknowledgment with thanks

Donation for Club Projects

PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsarisaria

Rs. 5100/-

Donation for Aasra Shelter Project

Rtn. Viney B. Aggarwal

Rs. 2100/-

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Viney B. Aggarwal

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Patinder Maharaj

August 15

R'ann Renu Chopra

August 17

R'ann Amarjit Bajaj

August 18

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Dr. B.R. Jain

August 15

Rtn. Raj Kumar Khattar

August 16



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