

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

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Rotary's Four Way Test
Of the things we think, say or do:
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to ALL Concerned?
3. Will it Build GOODWILL and Better Friendships?
4. Will it Be BENEFICIAL to ALL concerned?

Volume XXXXIII No. 30 Dated: January 22, 2019

PROGRAMME

Eye Ailments in the Aging Population

Chief Guest:

Dr Vanita Luthra Gulati

Ophthalmologist, Haukeland University Hospital
Bergen, Norway

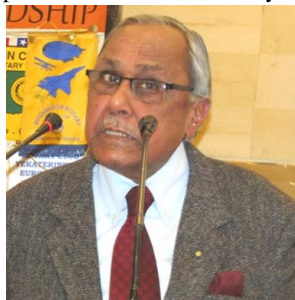
Date: January 25, 2019 (Friday)

Time: 06.30 pm

Venue: Hotel Shivalikview
Sector 17, Chandigarh

The Challenge of Sabarimala Judgment

In our meeting on January 18, 2019 President Rtn Ashok Puri was pleased to introduce the Keynote Speaker, our own Past President Rtn



PP Dr Balram Gupta

Dr Balram K Gupta, who joined the Chandigarh Judicial Academy as Director (Academics) in October 2015. Dr Gupta is a senior advocate and former Director of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal. He brings in over 50 years of experience as a parliamentary fellow, law professor, senior advocate and judicial educator. He has lectured in different universities and institutes in India, UK and USA. He is former professor and chairman, department of laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He was also the honorary dean, faculty of law, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. He is a dedicated Rotarian, a charter member of our Club. Having served in various important assignments, he was President of our Club in 2002-03. His wife R'ann Shashi Gupta is a Past President of Inner Wheel Club of Chandigarh Midtown, and has keenly taken part in community projects.

In his talk Dr Balram Gupta talked about the recent Supreme Court judgment allowing women access to the Sabarimala temple. He said the basic structure of this case is that women between the age of 10-50 are not to enter temple Sabarimala and offer prayers. How far this limitation is legitimate within the Constitutional frame-work? Building up scientific temper is part of the Indian Constitutional DNA. Religion plays a vital role in the spiritual well being of human beings. Religion nurtures purity of mind. Cultivates positive thoughts. Inspires to do good deeds. Religion teaches tolerance. It is in this backdrop that this prohibition has been examined by the Constitution Bench.

In Sabarimala temple, the devotees worship Lord Ayyappa. The Constitution Bench of the apex Court examined this prohibition. There was no evidence that this ritual / custom / practice was being practiced prior to 1950. It is recorded that no scriptural or textual evidence of the same has been brought on record. There is Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Act, 1965 which provides that 'there should be no discrimination amongst Hindus on the ground that he / she belongs to particular sect / class. The prohibition has been carved out under Rule 3(b) of the Rules framed under the Act of 1965. Resultantly, this practice / prohibition does not belong to antiquity. It is not ageless.

Discussing the matter further, Dr Gupta pointed out that the majority judgment records that devotees of Lord Ayyappa do not satisfy the requirements to constitute religious denomination, nor it constitutes separate sect of Hindus. This prohibition is applicable only to Sabarimala temple. There are over thousand temples where the idol of Lord Ayyappa is worshipped. No such bar. Therefore, the Constitutional Court was required to consider the legitimacy and constitutionality of the statutory rule providing for such prohibition.

Article 25 provides for freedom to profess, practice and propagate religion. This right is subject to public order, morality and health. Freedom of religion is a right vested in each individual. This freedom does not mean that one can force others to follow the same. Constitutional morality is fundamental.

It emerges from Articles 14, 15 as also 25. Moreover, Constitution provides to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. It also requires developing scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. All these elements constitute constitutional morality. This prohibition demonstrates that it is founded on 'superstitious' and 'irrational' practice. If such a practice is allowed, it would militate against scientific temper and the spirit of inquiry. It would also lead to other irrational practices. The constitutional fabric provides the umbrella. The fact is that such practices militate against the basic structure of the Constitution itself. Further, Article 21 guarantees the right to live and personal liberty which can be denied only by such procedure which is reasonable, just and fair.



Rtn Prof Dr IS Dua presents a token of affection to PP Dr Balram Gupta. Looking on is President Ashok Puri

An interesting and vibrant interactive discussion generated between Dr Balram Gupta and the audience – all Rotarians. However, Dr Gupta candidly stated, “To worship in a particular temple is part of my right to personal liberty. It is equally my freedom of faith and belief. It cannot be denied to me on the basis of irrational practice. It is my right to worship in a particular temple. This does not mean that I can force others equally placed to exercise the same right. It is entirely one’s option. The apex Court has found that this practice is violative of the Act of 1965 as also unconstitutional. The law laid down by the apex court is binding on all.”

Rtn Prof Dr IS Dua thanked PP Dr Balram Gupta for the wonderful talk, enlightening us on the Sabarimala judgment. Dr Dua was also happy to observe that there were three Professors of Panjab University on the dais, the third one being Director International Service Rtn Prof Rana Nayar, officiating in the meeting as the Secretary.



Vote of thanks by Rtn Prof Dr IS Dua

Intercity at Hyatt Hotel, Chandigarh



PP Rtn Dr Vanita Gupta, Chair Intercity, to be hosted by our Club, to honour RIPN Sushil Gupta on 09.02.2019 over Lunch. Registration Rs 1500 per person. All members are requested to register



Announcement for pending awards by President Ashok Puri



PDG Yoginder Diwan presents President Ashok Puri's recognition pins to PP Amarjit Singh and Rtn Prof Rana Nayar



PP Dr Balram Gupta presents birthday gift to PP Rtn DP Khandelía



PP Dr Balram Gupta presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Purnima & PP Rtn Deepak Sood



PP Dr Balram Gupta presents punctuality award to PDG Shaju Peter

District Governor's Condolence message for PP Col AJS Gill and Video recording of Condolence meeting

From: DG Praveen Goyal
<praveengoyal58@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 15, 2019 at 11:37 PM
Subject: Re: Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown Online e-Bulletin No. 29 dated January 15, 2019
To: Dr. V.J.S. Vohra drvjsvohra@gmail.com

It was a shocking news for the entire Rotary District 3080. PP Col AJS Gill was an institution in himself and had done a lot for the service of the humanity. He was always in the forefront of Service projects and hosting foreign Guests. We all will miss Col Gill.

Sent from my iPhone



To hand over to R'ann Herpreet Gill condolence message from District Governor and video recording of condolence meeting President Ashok Puri, PDG Shaju Peter with his daughter Nancy, PP Dr VJS Vohra, PP Ajit Gulati and PP Amarjit Singh visited the residence of Late PP Col AJS Gill

Organized by our Club on 18th January 2019. From Chandigarh tricity schools 16 teams participated. The event was attended by DG Praveen Goyal, PDG Shaju Peter, President Ashok Puri, PP Gurdip Singh Deep, IPP Dr Rita Kalra, Jt Secretary Nitin Kapur, Rtn Kulbir Bhatia and Rtn Shuchi Thakur. Rtn Parveen Setya and his entire school team helped us in all possible ways to make this event a grand success



On December 30, 2018 in Nagpur, PP Rtn Dr VJS Vohra presented our Club flag to his school friend, Rtn Rajan Mulani of Rotary Club of Nagpur, who has handed over the same to the President of Rotary Club of Nagpur, Rtn Kapil Bahri. The lady with the President is the Secretary of the Club. Rtn Nilufer Rana



Construction work for our signature project



President Ashok Puri is happy to inform, that 50 percent share amounting to US\$ 3000 has been received, for joint project of our Club and Rotary Club Twin Cities, USA (Club of President's brother), for renovation and modification of kitchen of Rotary Sarai

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President Rtn Ashok Puri's Thought of the Week

Discipline and hard work are the very foundations on which life trajectory is based. Being smart can be starting point but arc of your life is determined by how hard work you are willing to work in it

Acknowledgement with Thanks Donations to the Rotary Foundation

PP Rtn Deepak Sood	US\$ 100
Birthday of Spouses	
R'ann Vandana Gupta	January 31
Birthday of Rotarians	
Rtn Maj Gen Hardev Singh	January 31
Wedding Anniversary	
R'ann Monika & Rtn Chitrnanjan Aggarwal	January 25
R'ann Pushpa & PP Rtn Vinod Jawa	January 28
R'ann Kalpana & Rtn Praveen Aggarwal	January 29
R'ann Dilpreet & Rtn Amanpreet Singh	January 30
Punctuality Award	
Won by PDG Rtn Shaju Peter	

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand



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