Black Diamonds in Mines

In our regular meeting on March 29, 2019 our Chief Guest Mr RC Malhotra was welcomed by President Rtn Ashok Puri. The chief guest was formally introduced by PP Rtn RK Luther who said we should promote the Indian way greetings and said, “Namaskar and Sat Siri Akal” to all present in the meeting.

Mr RC Malhotra graduated from the Indian School of Mines in 1965. He is ASIM, BSc (Mining) and FCC. He has retired as the Chief General Manager of Coal India Ltd. He is highly experienced in deep coal mines, their rescue and recovery work, dealing with gas and fires in the mines. He was in Dhanbad for 25 years and then in Orissa for 5 years.

His wife Mrs Urmil was the Vice Principal in a private school in Dhanbad. They have one daughter and a son, both married and well settled. Daughter is a Senior Vice President in Max Health Services in Delhi and their son, a graduate from Punjab Engineering College and MBA, is Senior Vice President with MNC of car accessories in USA.

In his talk Mr Malhotra clarified that black diamond is actually coal which is of great importance in our life. One cannot imagine life without coal. In earlier times trains were running with steam engines using coal as the power. 80 percent of electricity is being generated by coal. Only 20 percent is through hydroelectric and nuclear generation. This is why coal is black diamond.

Mr Malhotra said trains came in 1853. But coal was found in early 19th century, not by Geological Survey of India but by farmers digging in their fields in Raniganj, West Bengal. They saw black stones, and came to know that it can be used in their houses.

Later on the scientists and Geological Survey of India started their research. The coal mining process of extracting coal from the ground involves making of tunnels, corridors, digging and manually extracting coal on carts, trucks, conveyors and hydraulic jacks. Arrangements are made according to size of the mine and number of workmen.

Accidents and disasters happen in the mines not only in India but in other countries also. Thousands of miners die each year from coal mining accidents, with the largest number of deaths occurring in China, which produces more than one-third of annual global coal output, accounts for more than two-thirds of mining deaths around the world each year. Coal mining is a hazardous process due to vehicle collisions, suffocation, gas poisoning, explosions etc.

While technological improvements and stricter safety regulations have reduced coal mining deaths, accidents are still quite common.
End TB campaign 21-30 March 2019, ending with Walkathon

Holi was very unique at Bal Niketan Panchkula on 21.03.2019 when all the inmates were screened for TB and health education talk on prevention and early detection of TB was organised in collaboration with RNTCP Panchkula.

On 22.03.2019 Nutrition supplements was provided to 190 MDR TB patients of Chandigarh to support our End TB campaign which was started from PGI Chandigarh, inaugurated by DHS Dr Diwan in presence of State TB officer Dr Khaneja, RNTCP, ICTC staff and Rotarians of Chandigarh Midtown, well organised by PE Salil Bali. PP RK Luther is sponsor for the month. The beneficiaries were presented with soya beans and health education on diet and hygiene given. Present from our club were President Ashok Puri, PDG Shaju Peter, PP Pallav Mukherjee, PP Amarjit Singh, PP Vinod Jawa, VP Sanjay Bhatia, Rtn Subhash Vats, Rtn Vinod Sobti with R’ann Asha Sobti, IPP Dr Rita Kalra and PP Dr VJS Vohra.

Outreach program to old age home and Ashiana orphanage for screening by sputum testing and early detection was done. Talk on health education was delivered by Dr Rajesh Rajju and IPP Dr Rita Kalra.

On 30.03.2019 a massive Public Image campaign by our Club, IMA Panchkula and District health authorities on world TB fortnight celebrations was organised at Civil hospital Panchkula. To spread the message and awareness end TB campaign, Walkathon was flagged off by PRID Yash Pal Das, Chairman National TB Awareness and Control committee and Dr Mankirat Murara CMO cum PMO Civil Hospital Panchkula. DAV Police Public School and Inner Wheel Panchkula, were also there with great enthusiasm raising slogans. 130 samples was collected in 15 days from 10 locations and awareness talks organised in schools, colleges, urban slums, orphanages and old age homes.

PRID Yash Das said, "It was my pleasure to be a part of the Walkathon organised by Rotary Chandigarh Midtown. The walkathon was very well organised with very good participation. Congratulations! Keep up the good work."

Address by PRID Yash Das to create awareness to end TB

Nutrition supplements distributed in Government Hospital, Sector 22, Chandigarh
A highly successful medical and dental treatment camp was organised at village Makhan Majra Gurdwara. 170 patients were examined. 28 eye and 41 dental check-ups were done. 25 teeth scalings were done by smile express team and 6 cataract surgeries were identified by Dr Grover’s eye team. 15 patients were advised near vision glasses. Dr YM Agarwal, Dr Anjali Agarwal, Rtn Dr Col VK Kapoor, Rtn Dr Vishal Dua, Dr Monika, Dr Shradha, Dr Sunita, Dr Shivani, Dr Gurinder, Dr Ajay Mohan Kumar and Rtn Dr Sanjay Kalra attended the patients. President Ashok Puri with First Lady Sudha Puri, PP Rtn Prem Anand, Rtn Dr Indu Luthra, Rtn Jeeten Bhambri, Rtn. Vinod Sobti and President Inner Wheel Chandigarh Midtown R’ann Kund Bala Goyal were the volunteers. Snacks and tea were sponsored by R’ann Sudha Puri, PP Prem Anand and Rtn Indu Luthra. Shenoy and Manish helped in distribution of medicines.

Our Club promotes Rotary Public Image

IPP Dr Rita Kalra, who recently attended ‘Disha 2019’, a pan India training seminar convened by RIDE Kamal Sanghvi and Dr Bharat Pandya, shared important information in her presentation on Rotary Public Image.

Publicity is necessary and of great importance for Rotary. In her presentation Rita quoted Paul Harris, “In the promotion of understanding it is important to reach large numbers of non-Rotarians as well as Rotarians.”

Rotary’s Public Image is shaped by actions of its members, presence on the web, social media, facebook and club’s publications and bulletins. For this Public Relations Public Image (PRPI) Director should be appointed in the club board.

Our Club has already taken the lead in its plan for appointing dedicated Public Image Director for Rotary Year 2019-2020.

Our Club has also been a leader in promoting Rotary Public Image through publication of our bulletin, "The Midtowner", which has a wide circulation across the globe reaching International audience including non Rotarians also, by emails, our website and social media (facebook). Since Rotary Year 2006-07 our bulletins are accessible for anyone, anytime and from anywhere in the world.

Our Signature project

Construction activities of GES Peermushalla

IPP Dr Rita Kalra

Rtn. Bhavmit Tiger Chandoak
(MBA, CFA, IA)
CEO & Founder

Tiger Wealth Management Private Limited
SCO 48 - 49, Sector 32-D, Chandigarh - 160009
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Mobile: 9814034094
Acknowledgement with Thanks
R”ann Lalita Prakash for End TB project Rs 10000
PE Rtn Salil Bali for GES, Peermushalla Rs 10000

Birthday of Rotarians
Rtn Praveen Aggarwal April 09
Rtn Vijay Kumar April 11

Wedding Anniversary
R”ann Seema & Rtn Dr Dinesh Sahajpal April 06
R’ann Pritpal & Rtn RPS Gulati April 07

Punctuality Award
Won by President Elect Rtn Salil Dev Bali

President Rtn Ashok Puri’s Thought of the Week
Everybody meets hardship in life - that is law of nature. The difference between an immature person and mature person is that one chooses to complain about it and other decides to face it head on and create something meaningful out of even the most adverse situations.

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Email: salil.bindra@gmail.com