On October 19, 2019, a Conference on the ‘Consumer is Always Right?’ was organized by Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown in association with Rotary Club Chandigarh Central. The Chief Guest of the Conference was Hon’ble Justice (retd) R.K. Agrawal, the President of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The prominent legal personalities at the Conference were the Presidents of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions located in the tricity; Hon’ble Justice P.S. DhalIWal of Punjab, Hon’ble Justice T.P.S. Mann of Haryana and Hon’ble Justice R.S. Attri of the U.T., Chandigarh. Dr. B.C. Gupta, a former Member of the National Commission was the Conference Chair.

It was a Conference with a difference. All possible scenarios starting with the ‘Fate of Consumer’ in India to the ‘International Perspective’ including the UN Guidelines, the role of organisations like Rotary, ‘Rotary connects the Corporations’ were discussed.

President Rtn. Salil Bali welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. The Guest of Honour DG Rtn. Jitendra Dhingra was not able to make it as his father was hospitalized. We wish him a very speedy recovery.

The Chief Guest was formally introduced by PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta. She stated that Hon’ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Kumar Agrawal hails from Uttar Pradesh. He did his graduation in Law from Allahabad University. He enrolled as Advocate on 14.08.1976. He took over as Chief Justice, High Court of Madras on 07.02.1999 and assumed office as Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Madras on 24.10.2013. He was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 17.02.2014, from where he retired on 04.05.2018. Since 01.07.2018 he is serving as President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. Hon’ble Justice R.K. Aggarwal spoke on the ‘Advances in Consumer Law - Vision for Future’. During his address, he made an important announcement that in order to ensure expeditious disposal of Consumer cases, Section 89 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, entitled, “Settlement of Disputes Outside the Court”, shall be used by the Consumer Commissions in future. He stated that the new Consumer Protection Act, 2019 proposes strict measures and tightens the existing rules to safeguard consumer rights. There would be severe penalty for misleading advertisements. Guidelines for e-commerce and electronic service providers will be implemented through the new Act. He explained that the focus of the new Act shifts from the buyer to the seller. The Act also makes provision for product liability. As delayed justice is denial of justice, the new Act ensures that the disputes would be disposed off within 90 days. He described the Consumer Protection Act 2019 as a landmark legislation which is expected to give more relief to consumers.

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President Rtn. Salil Bali, who is himself a leading Advocate of the town, stated that the Rotary International had emphasized that special efforts should be made for creating Consumer awareness in the World. Keeping that spirit in mind, our club had taken the lead in organizing the Conference. He said that the Rotarians will play an important role in consumer protection and resolution of disputes.

The Conference Chair Dr. B.C. Gupta IAS (retd.), in his Presentation, "My Tryst with the Consumer Law & Practice", shared his experiences during his over five-year tenure in the National Commission. He stated that the Consumer Commissions had to perform a delicate balancing act between the facts of the cases and the legal provisions, while ensuring justice to the Consumers. He said organizations like Rotary Clubs could create consumer awareness and play an important role in getting consumer issues settled out of court. He stressed that going to the court should be the last resort.

PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta, Director Academics, Chandigarh Judicial Academy, talked about “Rotary Connects the Consumer”, which is in line with Rotary International President’s current theme, “Rotary Connects the World”. He is looking forward to the implementation of the 2019 Consumer Act, as he feels it would be good for every human being as everybody is a consumer. Rotary being a global family of 12.5 million Rotarians who are professionals or business leaders in 538 Districts around the world, can do justice to consumers in their own capacity. He emphasized that consumer disputes should be resolved through mediation.

Talking about “Fate of the Consumer” Mr. N.C. Rana of Consumer Association of Panchkula, spoke about consumer rights and resolving the cases. A young Advocate Sukhandeep Singh gave an interesting presentation on the International Perspective and spoke about the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, the activities of Consumer International, an International NGO and the U.K. Law, the Consumer Rights Act, 2015.

PP Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi expressed our deep sense of gratitude to Hon’ble Justice R.K. Aggarwal for enlightening us on his Vision for Future and the new Consumer Protection Act 2019. He thanked Hon’ble Justice P.S. Dhaliwal, Hon’ble Justice T.P.S. Mann, Hon’ble Justice R.S. Attri for their gracious presence. He also thanked Principal Dr. Balraj Thapar of S.D. College for his cooperation and logistic support in organizing the Conference at their auditorium in Sector 32, Chandigarh.
Global Grant GG1746041 - Successfully Completed – Reply to bulletin No. 15 forwarded to PP Rtn. Richard Dangler by PP Amarjit Singh regarding Solar Electrification Project in Leh

Richard Dangler Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 11:19 PM To: Amarjit Singh Cc: Salildev Bali, Rita Kalra, Shaju Peter, Dr VJS Vohra

Dear Amarjit,

Thank you for all of the work your club accomplished in carrying out for this solar project. The Rotary Club of Edwards Colorado members also send their best regards for your efforts as well all of the work India is doing with renewable energy practices. It is great news to learn that a Final Report will soon be submitted. It has been great partnering with the Chandigarh Midtown Rotary Club. Thanks for the update.

Richard

Global Handwashing Day – 15 October 2019

Governments of High School, Manimajra

Govt. Senior Secondary School Sector 6 Panchkula

Govt. Elementary School (GEC), Peermuchalla

Mother and child clinic of Civil Hospital Panchkula

Granddaughter of R‘ann Sudha & IPP Ashok Puri

Neha Puri Krishnan d/o Manish and Nikita Krishnan and her partner won Tennis Double championship amongst 33 schools of Rockland County, NY, USA on 05.10.2019

Recognition for IPP Ashok Puri on 01.10.2019

IPP Rtn. Ashok Puri honoured by Punjab Shiksha Board, Mohali in Shivalik Public School, Mohali for GEC Peermuchalla Signature project of 2018-19
Acknowledgement with thanks

Donations to the Rotary Foundation
PE Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia US$ 250
PP Rtn. Amarjit Singh US$ 100

Donations for Leh Project
President Rtn. Salil Bali Rs. 20000

Donations for Annapurna
PE Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia Rs. 2500
PP Rtn. Amarjit Singh Rs. 500
Rtn. Arjan Singh Rs. 500

Birthday of Spouses
R’ann Kadam Bhambri October 27
Capt. Kapil Nayar October 30

Birthday of Rotarians
Rtn. Dr. Anureet Kaur October 31

Wedding Anniversary
R’ann Hariti & Rtn. Chiranjiv Singh October 28

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