In our weekly meeting on February 07, 2020 President Rtn. Salil Dev Singh Bali welcomed the keynote speaker, our own Past President Rtn. Indrajeet Sengupta, a Major Donor – Level I, a Member of the Paul Harris Society and the only Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation in our Club. He recently closed down his Company, M/s Composite Power Systems, dealing in the repair and maintenance of Diesel Generating Sets, to lead a retired life and pursue his passion for reading and also travelling, which he does quite frequently within India and abroad with R’ann Malabika Sengupta. Indrajeet spoke about the events leading to the massacre at Jalianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919.

With the end of the 1st World War in 1918, and the imminent lapse of the Defence of India Act, the Colonial Authorities felt an immediate need to enact a legislation to curtail the already prevailing discontent amongst Indians clamouring for Independence, now more defiant with the arrival of cashiered soldiers, demanding for their dues in settlement of their participation in the War. The Imperial Council enacted the “Anarchial & Revolutionary Crimes Act”, commonly known as the “Rowllat Act”, giving the administration wide powers to detain and arrest as well as prosecute Indian subjects at will.

It was against this arbitrary law, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, just returned from South Africa, at the insistence of the aging Bal Gangadhar, gave a call for ‘satyagraha’. Tilak’s passing away had created a vacuum, and Gandhi had by this time become the leader by natural choice. His voice was being heard and followed on the sub-continent. The call for ‘hartal’ was given initially for March 30 and then for April 06, 1919 had luke warm response in some parts of the country.

The ‘hartal’ in Delhi on March 30 was intense and acting Brigadier General Reginald Dwyer, passing through Delhi was a witness to the ensuing violence. He and his family too happened to have been attacked in the melee, an incident that would remain etched in his mind.

Meanwhile, the ‘hartal’ in Amritsar was complete on April 06, 1919. The British, due to the 1857 War of Independence and the Kuka Rebellion of 1872 still fresh in the mind, feared this ‘hartal’, the second time within half a century. Hindus and Muslims had united for a cause, in spite of the policy of divide and rule. The Deputy Commissioner Amritsar, Mr. Irwing got permission from the Punjab Governor Sir Micheal O’Dwyer to arrest and punish persons indulging in ‘hartal’, under the Rowlatt Act. Local leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, a Cambridge educated barrister and Dr. Satyapal, a medical practitioner were summoned by Irwing to the ‘kotwali’, arrested by DSP Plommer, and instructed by Irwing transported to Dharamshala by SP Rehill.

The news spread like wild fire, and the next day, April 10, there was a complete shutdown. Led by no one, the crowd marched from Hall G to Hall Bazar, and marched past the Administration Office where they stopped, and instructed the officials to open the gates and allow the funeral procession to proceed. Permission was given, and the procession proceeded to Jallianwala Bagh. The violence continued and at dawn the leaders sought permission to bury the dead. Permission was granted for only 4 persons to accompany each dead through the Sultanwind Gate. This enraged the population, and ‘hartal’ continued.

Meanwhile on the evening of April 11, Brigadier General Reginald ‘Rex’ Dwyer with his trusted adjutant Maj. F.C.C. Briggs arrived in Amritsar, divesting Capt. McDonald of his command. Till now, it is not clear who gave him orders to assume his command. Tilak was not present and he was not informed the meeting. It was assumed by some historians, that his experience in Delhi, and his racist outlook, over powered him to seek vengeance. He, along with his troops marched through Amritsar to show their power.

Hans Raj, a political assistant to the arrested and deported leaders, convened a general meeting to discuss the course of action, on behalf of lower rung popular leaders Bashir Ahmad and Lala Duni Chand. That is how the congregation at Jalianwala Bagh was held.

The rest of the butchery that occurred is morbid history, now indulging in violence. 20-25 Amritsar citizens were killed and many injured in the firing by the British. The violence continued and at dawn the leaders sought permission to bury the dead. Permission was granted for only 4 persons to accompany each dead through the Sultanwind Gate. This enraged the population, and ‘hartal’ continued.

Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayyar thanked PP Indrajeet Sengupta for his very informative talk, expanding considerably on what he said, including the incident at Katra Ahluwalia.
President Salil Bali quoted Rotary Action Group for Peace to talk about How to Add Peace in your Life 2020 - Culture of Peace authored by Santa Barbara, host of PeacePodcast.org and Co-Founder of Rotary eclub of World Peace.org. 
https://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/2020/02/04/how-to-add-peace-in-your-life-2020/

Now that the calendar has flipped to 2020, we have a new year filled with promise and resolutions. The author has explained how small steps can help you add peace to your daily life. The following five tips and tricks are easy and enjoyable ways to impact your — and others’ — lives for the better this new year, a new decade.

Create a Peace Corner in your home. A Peace Corner is a neutral zone. It is a nurturing, calm place where you can carve out a quiet moment to use for meditation, to think about peace, to read a book or simply to be alone. It might be in a corner of a room, containing anything that calms and grounds you. You might have artwork or photos that inspire you, a chair and a lamp for reading, or your Gratitude Journal. My Peace Corner, a tiny sign, is in the kitchen, to remind me to be peaceful at meals.

Start a gratitude jar or Gratitude Journal. On a slip of paper, write down one positive thing that happened or that made you happy today and put it in the jar. Whenever you are feeling upset or stressed, take one out and read it. Keep a Gratitude Journal, to write short thoughts anytime “to remember or review why I am grateful.” It takes only a few minutes, and it lifts my mood every time.

Use ‘smile meditation’. Spend one uninterrupted minute a day smiling. This will lift your spirits as well as work to dispel any negative feelings.

Smiling at others usually you get smiles in return from those at whom you are smiling. A smile, just for yourself, can help you turn your whole day around.

Perform small acts of kindness. It’s amazing how much brightening someone else’s day can brighten our own. Kindnesses don’t have to be expensive or elaborate. Let someone go ahead of you in the checkout line. Tell the parent with the fussy child how beautiful their little one is. Say “good morning” to all you meet. At a four-way stop, let another driver take your turn. Open the door for the person entering a building after you. Or just say a simple, sincere thank you on the phone, in the store, at home, or at work to those who are near — and even those who are not so dear. You never know just how meaningful your simple kindness may be to someone else.

Come alongside. When speaking with someone who has ideas that are different than yours, take the time to learn and appreciate their point of view rather than debating with them. Life with our fellow humans is not a debate; it’s a dialogue. Coming alongside doesn’t mean giving up your values or giving in. It’s simply recognizing that others have their own perceptions and ideas, just as we do.

Peace is a journey, not a destination, and it begins with each of us. Small steps can lead to big changes. Look for opportunities to practice peace and watch how peace grows and expands to other aspects of your life. These are simple ways we all can contribute to a culture of peace.

President Salil also showed an interesting video “How has the Declaration of Human Rights changed the world?”
Blood Donation Camp

40 units collected at DAV Police Line School, Panchkula. Additional District Secretary – Blood Donation PP Bipin Bogra was also present.

Rotary Connects the World, our Club connects it Live

For Live streaming of our weekly meetings on facebook, PP Rtn. Vinod Bhanti of Rotary Club of Patna made a very inspiring comment, “Rotary Connects the World you connect it live.”

District Conference
22 to 23.02.2020
Venue: Sterling Resorts, Kurukshetra
Register now, Contact:
Secretary Rtn. Nitin Kapur

Times of India dated 08.02.2020
Birthday of Spouses
R’ann Shashi Gupta February 19

Birthday of Rotarians
PP Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tuli February 14
Rtn. Parveen Setya February 15

Wedding Anniversary
R’ann Urmil & PP Rtn. R.K. Luther February 14
R’ann Banita & Rtn. Puneet Ahuja February 18
R’ann Brij Bala & Rtn. M.K. Handa February 18
R’ann Ranjeet & Rtn. Srinanbir Sandhu February 20

Punctuality Award
Punctuality award to PP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra joined by Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra

PP Rtn. Er. R. K. Luther

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