

The Midtowner

2020-21

Rotary
Chandigarh Midtown



Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown
View online: www.rotarychdmidtown.org

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THE 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 45 No. 50 Dated: 15 June 2021

PROGRAMME

Virtual Tour - Antarctica

Keynote Speaker:

Ms. Alifiya Calcuttawala
Regional Director
The Wanderers

Date: June 18, 2021 (Friday)

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 6291653178

Password: 15228

**Fear never builds the future,
But HOPE does.**

The Incredible Life Sciences - A lot to Know

[Click here to watch on](#) YouTube - <https://youtu.be/oEpg-wFa3to>

In our virtual meeting on 11 June 2021 President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia welcomed the keynote speaker, Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua. Professor Emeritus, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He also welcomed large number of guests Dr. A.S. Ahluwalia, Prof. S.K. Bhatnagar, Prof. Ichha Purak. Prof. Purnananda Guptasarma, Prof. G.S. Kainth, Maj. Gen. Arun Verma, Dr. Manu Jatana, Dr. Harinder Arora, Dr. Bhupinder Singh, Dr. Vanita Gulati and Rtn. Kavita Vij (both daughters of Rtn. Dr. Indu Luthra).

President Sanjay appreciated the invocation by Rtn. Anjali Chhabra as she wished for the end of the current crisis and better days ahead. One of the guests, Prof. G.S. Kainth responded in a very positive manner as Hope builds the Future. He said, "Khuda jo deta hai, usey kabul kar lo. Kabhi kanton may bhi phool khil jaten hai." (Accept whatever God gives us. Even the flowers come out of thorns).

PP Rtn. Kanan Diwan formally introduced the keynote speaker.



Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua

Rtn. Professor Dr. I.S. Dua is Professor of Eminence and is the Former Chairman, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Subsequent to his 30 years stint at the Panjab University, Prof. Dua has been a consultant to Monsanto, USA, for the last 9 years. Prof. Dua has many prestigious awards and honors which have been bestowed upon him year after year. He is a product of I.A.R.I. from New Delhi from where he had his M.Sc. and Ph.D as a Gold Medalist. He was the winner of The Rockefeller Foundation New York Fellowship from 1969 to 1973. Prof. Dua was decorated with Shri Kulwant Rai Memorial Award for his lifelong commitment to the "Popularization of Sciences in India". He was also honored with P.N. Mehra Medal for his lifelong achievements in Plant Sciences in the same year.

Condolences

President and members of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown were shocked to learn on 10 June 2021 about the sad demise of Rtn. Aneesh Bhanot, President of Rotary Club Chandigarh Shivalik. We express our heartfelt condolences to R'Ann Shanti Bhanot. May God give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.



The Scientific and Applied Research Center conferred him "The Outstanding Achievement in Science and Technology Award" for his contributions in Molecular Physiology. He was also honored with SPRs Kalinga Award 2009 for his life-long commitment to the "Dissemination of Sciences among the Masses".

He has been the recipient of Senior Scientist Medal (2008) for his contributions in the field of Molecular Physiology and has been elected to the Linnaean Society of London in the same year. He has been the recipient of Darwin Bicentenary Gold Medal for his four decades contributions in making to percolate the basic concepts of biological sciences in general and Evolutionary Biology to all the niches of society.

He has been a visiting Professor to the University of Oxford London; Visiting Fellow at U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington D.C.; Visiting Professor, and University of Calgary, Canada. He was also chosen as a visiting Professor to the Indian Institute of Advance Studies Shimla, an honor rarely going to a biologist in an International Social Sciences Institute.

His acumen in blending biology with philosophy was validated when he was chosen to preside over The Indian Philosophical Society Meeting held in Goa in 2002. He has been an invited speaker at pivotal National / International Conferences convened towards the promotion of Plant Sciences/ Molecular Biology.

This is apparent from the fact that in the last four years he has given around 200 lectures at different fora as an inaugural or keynote/curtain raiser speaker in the conferences dealing with the promotion of biological sciences and has been the Chairman of North Zone Chapter of Biosensor Society of India. He is a Life Member of Eight International Societies which are devoted to the development of Biological Sciences in general and Plant Sciences (Molecular Plant Physiology) in particular.

The presentation, “Incredible Life Sciences-A lot to Know”, as summarized by Prof. Dua, envisaged the journey of life sciences into the exciting field of Biotechnology as a product of Classical Biology, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Information Technology, and Biophysics wherein it has transformed itself to a position to answer the subtle mysteries of life operating at the molecular level and in turn are maneuverable. The theme picked up the thread from the great works from B.C. period to the Renaissance period which in turns had led to the progress of traditional biology into what at present is called the Modern Biology where all fields have merged into a single state and is concerned with its application into the modern agriculture, medicine/health, or environment. A unique compilation of this lecture and its partial appraisal was on the relevance of the descent of all branches of biology into one common pool (Modern Biology) and showed how the different scientific missions had accomplished their relevance to society through their own welfare potential. The audience had a chance to see the classical milestones in the field of all branches of sciences which have revolutionized the dogmas of the modern world and is at the doorstep to serve everyone with its inexplicable powers. The presentation was charged with rare acoustics as well as visual experience to the minds and souls of the audience. It revealed how the gradual progress of classical Life Sciences, through the works of innumerable Noble Laureates who have worked even on the molecules of consciousness. In the last two decades the life sciences by inventing genetic engineering (GE) has been able to transform the physiological and immunological profiles of plants and animals which have allowed him to pick up the specific trait and splice it into another rather than discovering that trait, he was looking for in amongst the rubble of mutated seedlings. All these probes have a subtle epistemology in common that these are biological solutions, based on understanding of the living organisms they seek to control and of the whole fabric of a common tree of life (biodiversity) to which all the organisms belong. Specialists representing various areas of the vast field of modern life sciences have been contributing – entomologists, pathologists, geneticists, physiologists, biochemists, ecologists – and have poured their knowledge and their creative inspirations into the formation of a new science of biotic world which have provided a better life in terms of food, feed and welfare feeling to all of us besides the common man to appreciate the mysteries of life through science. The presentation showed how the biotechnological vistas are replete with examples where the technology has helped to achieve a genotype to move closer to its optimum model, in a facilitated fashion over a lesser period of time as is apparent through the innovations in gene editing technology. What the nature executes through its different agents namely mutation, genetic drift, gene flow, assortative mating or natural selection thereby resulting in a change of allelic frequency



**Address by
President Sanjay
Bhatia**



**Introduction by PP
Kanan Diwan**



**Invocation by Rtn.
Anjali Chhabra**

nomenclature as evolution followed by its probable natural selection bring a novel change. Such a process has been occurring in the last 3.8 billion years and has synthesized a collage what we call life biodiversity. However, the natural process is too slow and what the technology has done in the last hundred years is to expedite such vernal combinations, with utmost care and precautions, through genetic engineering. Scientific issues whether on human biology have produced a well behaved and decipherable incredible science. Why be jingoist when we can be more at ease with science? Is meeting science with science a lost form of art? Why do behave like church responding to a humble Galileo? It shows we lack immunity to certain kinds of scientific realities and our sense of science is still very skin deep and those who are opposing this move are keeping the humanity at bay from realism and are putting its welfare timetable in abeyance.

All projected endeavours in the presentation had one contention in common: they are biological solutions, based on understanding of the living organisms they seek to control and of the whole fabric of life to which all the organisms belong and with one objective to make us to appreciate life through these current life sciences innovations.

Prof. Dua’s presentation triggered very interesting and scientific interaction amongst the eminent educators/scientists present in the meeting. They had great admiration for his presentation.

Prof. Dua noticed two children Ananya and Anushka, twin granddaughters of PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, who were very attentive throughout the presentation and were not allowing any disturbance in the room. They also interacted with Prof. Dua, who commented, “They are budding scientists.” Thank you Prof. Dua for being a great inspiration to children of Rotary and similarly, he must have done so for his students in the University and wherever or to whomsoever he has been spreading the valuable knowledge about the ‘Incredible Life Sciences’. [Click here to watch Prof. Dua’s excellent presentation on our Club’s YouTube channel.](#) Comment, like and subscribe to the channel. Share the video to build Rotary image.

PP Rtn. Ajit Gulati thanked Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua for the wonderful presentation which was made so simple and interesting. PP Ajit said, “Prof. Dua is an asset to Chandigarh Midtown and an asset to the society.” President Sanjay Bhatia expressed his gratitude and delight for having Prof. Dua as the keynote speaker before the end of his tenure this month.



**Vote of thanks by
PP Ajit Gulati**

Rotary has Talent



Collage of meeting on 11.06.2021 made by Rtn. Dr. Indu Luthra

Contribution in kind to our Rasoi (Kitchen)



50 kg Atta and 10 kg mator (frozen green peas) for our Rasoi (cooking food for covid patients) in Saini Bhawan, Sector 24, Chandigarh, was donated by PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra on 10.06.2021, through his Jyot Charitable Trust. Items were supplied at reasonable price to Dr. Vohra by his friend Mr. V.P.S. Jolly, who was very much impressed and fascinated to see the excellent arrangements and facilities available at the rasoi, which has served around 20000 meals to patients in less than two months. Mr. Jolly offered his services as a volunteer. On 13.06.2021 he not only donated 06 kg of veg. chaap, but also cooked this himself in the Rasoi. [Click here to see the video on facebook.](#)



This Rasoi is being coordinated by PP Rtn. Salil Bali and our Partner-in-Service former Sr. Dy. Mayor of Chandigarh Mr. Hardeep Singh. In this Rasoi there are 40 volunteers led by Mr. Vinod Nagpal, President of our Rotary Community Corps for Persons with Disabilities, who keeps moving around on his wheel chair.

Food distributed



On 07.06.2021 DYS Rtn. Kulbir Bhatia, Rtn. J.S. Bawa and Rtn. Pardeep Sisodia joined President Rtn. Himani Sharma and her team of Rotaractors of Chandigarh Midtown to distribute 40 meals outside PGI, Chandigarh

Launch of WIRI

Women in Rotary International (WIRI) group was launched by RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi on 06 June 2021. The entire team was introduced by the convener, Rtn. Julia Gangwani. AG Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra was named as the Coordinator for WIRI Zone 4 constituting India's 10 Rotary Districts. Dr. Rita Kalra expressed gratitude on behalf of WIRI.



Accessible Kidney Care



The Kidney Care Project of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown began with the inauguration of the Dialysis Machine donation to Sri Guru Granth Sahib Sewa Society at the Dialysis Centre in Sector 52, Chandigarh (Gurdwara Gobindsar compound) on 11.06.2021, for patients suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

The cost of the machine is Rs. 6.25 lakh, for which major funding has been received from M/s Aakar Creations (Anuj Diwan and Neeraj Diwan).

There is a proposal for adding more machines in the future.



Rain Water Harvesting at Dev Samaj College for Women - 45



To tackle the water challenge and reduce dependence on ground water, a Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) structure has been set up at the Dev Samaj College for Women in Sector 45, Chandigarh.

The project was conceived and executed by Chair Environment – Rtn. Dr. Shashi Jain and helps the club to align with the National Water Mission's campaign of "Catch the Rain - where it falls, when it falls". The site was inaugurated and opened for use on 08.06.2021.

Birthday of Spouse

R' Ann Nandita Sisodia 18 June
R' Ann Rekha Mehan 21 June

Birthday of Rotarians

PP Rtn. Vinod Kumar Jawa 21 June
Rtn. Jeeten Bhambari 23 June

District Conference

Rotary DISTRICT 3080
mezbaan DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Our Eminent Speakers

19-20 JUNE 2021 VIRTUAL SESSION
Log in @ 4:00pm

HIGHLIGHTS
Many Prominent Speakers
Shreyas Awards 2020-21
NO REGISTRATION FEE

Rotary International President's Representative
PDG Rtn. Dr Gulshan Thakral & Dr Rashmi Thakral

REKHA & DG RAMESH BAJAJ

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