



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

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The Midtowner



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Bulletin of Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown: R.I. District 3080

R. I. President
Kalyan Banerjee

District Governor
Manpreet Singh

President
Raj Kumar Luther

Secretary
Amarjit Singh

Editor
Dr. V. J. S. Vohra

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PROGRAMME

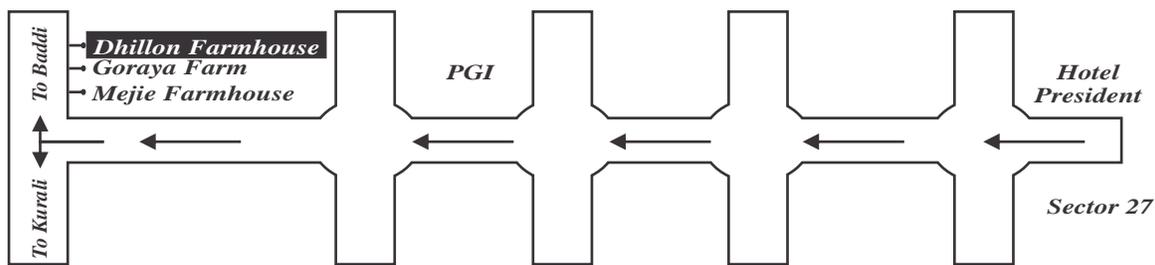
Picnic - Holi Hai !!!



Thursday, March 08, 2012

Time: 11 a.m.

Venue : Dhillon Farm, Baddi Road, Siswan



Road Map to venue

President R.K. Luther requests all Rotarians to join with family to enjoy holi and picnic! He said, "This is 'on the house', no body has to pay anything."

India is no longer polio endemic. Won the Battle but the War is not Over

Source: Rotary International News and www.eflashonline.org



L-R: Steve Cochi (CDC), PRIP Raja Saboo, Dr. Devendra Khandait (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Dr. Hamid Jafari (National Polio Surveillance Project) and Bruce Aylward (World Health Organization) at the Polio Summit 2012 on February 25, 2012.

The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, made the announcement at the Polio Summit 2012 in New Delhi on 25 February. Azad said that he had been informed of WHO's action by its Director General, Dr. Margaret Chan.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the summit, which was organized by the Government of

India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease.

Polio remains endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Until 2009, India accounted for nearly half the number of the world's polio cases. A chief factor in the country's success has been the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both remaining types of the polio virus. Another has been rigorous monitoring, which has helped reduce the number of children missed by health workers during National Immunization Days to less than 1 percent, according to WHO.

Rotary International has played a major role in helping to stop the transmission of polio in India. Rotary has been a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a key supporter.

"With the support of their Rotary brothers and sisters around the world, Indian Rotarians have worked diligently month after month, year after year, to help organize and carry out the National Immunization Days that reach millions of children with the oral polio vaccine," says RI President Kalyan Banerjee, "As an Indian, I am immensely proud of what Rotary has accomplished. However, we know this is not the end of our work. Rotary and our partners must continue to immunize children in India and in other countries until the goal of a polio-free world is finally achieved." Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the nearly 1,19,000 Rotarians in India have helped administer vaccine to children, organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies, and distribute banners, caps, comic books, and other items.

Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, calls India's achievement "a significant step towards a polio-free world – an example as to what can be accomplished



Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh presenting a memento to RI President Kalyan Banerjee. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, is behind the PM

no matter what problems need to be overcome. Rotarians of India are and should be proud of the key efforts they have made at all levels, without which the world would not be marking this milestone."

Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee, also credits the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its commitment to ending polio. To date, the Indian government has spent more than US\$1.2 billion on domestic polio eradication activities. "We are fortunate that our government is our biggest advocate in this effort," Kapur says.

Role of Municipal Corporation in Uplifting Chandigarh

In the meeting on March 02, 2012 Chief Guest Advocate Ms. Raj Bala Malik, Mayor of Chandigarh was there in time for the fellowship, and seemed to be enjoying it. Since she was in a hurry to go as she had guests from abroad, President R.K. Luther hastened to request her to give her talk as we all were eagerly looking forward to her views on 'Role of Municipal Corporation in Uplifting Chandigarh'. She came to the mike and after wishing belated happy birthday to PP Rtn. Col. A.J.S. Gill, she said, "Thanks all of you, I am here I have to go." Nothing could have been shorter and crispier than this! President Luther said if any one has questions to ask her..... but before any one could do so, the Mayor had gone!

PP Rtn. Col. Gill had celebrated his 'twentieth' birthday on 29th February, a date that occurs every four years. In his brief address

Col. Gill said, "I never liked just being a member of Rotary Club. I always wanted to be a Rotarian." As he has not been keeping good health, we all wish him a very speedy recovery, so that he continues to be a good Rotarian,



Rtn. Wg. Comdr. Kamal Nath, Rtn. B.S. Channi, Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, Rtn. Deepak Sood, PP Col. A.J.S. Gil & R'ann Herpreet, PP B.L. Ramsisaria and Rtn. Vinod Sobti

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President R.K. Luther and Jt. Secretary Dr. Rita Kalra with Mayor Raj Bala Malik



PP Rtn. Ar. Pallav Mukherjee advocates transparent system



Rtn. R.T.P.S. (Ravi) Tulsi gives alarming facts

and we look forward to seeing him more in our meetings. Col. Gill was a very active Editor of this bulletin and strongly advocated it as the show window of the club. The present Editor became a Rotarian in 1996 during his tenure as one of the most effective President of our club. R'ann Indu Luthra said, "It is Col. Gill who formed the Inner Wheel Club of Chandigarh Midtown and he sponsored me to be the Charter President of this club. He has always been active in Rotary Club and taking interest in Inner Wheel also."

The President requested Rotarians to suggest good speakers for our meetings. Coming to the main topic, and since the Mayor had left without saying anything about the Municipal Corporation, it was left to the Rotarians to discuss the subject. Former

Nominated Councillor PP Ar. Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee walked up to dais and clarified, "I am not representing the Mayor." He questioned, "Should we continue with the system of Representative Democracy rather than Participative democracy because any person who gets more votes than the other, becomes the boss." This person puts his 'thumb impression' on crores of rupees worth of budget and projects and does not know a thing about it!

MCC recently passed the budget of Rs 812 crore for the year 2012-13. Pallav said, "By contrast Shimla is just 5 crores!" He revealed, "MCC has Rs. 2000 crores in its kitty and does not know how to spend it, and the problem is no proper accounts!" Pallav said, "There has to be a system of transparency." The



Mayor Raj Bala Malik presents birthday gift to PP Rtn. Col. A.J.S. Gill



Pres. Luther and Jt. Secy. Dr. Rita Kalra present wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Asha & Rtn. Vinod Sobti

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Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia presents birthday gift to Rtn. Deepa Bhar. Looking on are President Luther & R'ann Urmil



Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua bags punctuality award which R'ann Gurinder gets from Pres. Luther & Jt. Secy. Dr. Rita Kalra

recent incident of dog bite to former Mayor Harjinder Kaur, brought the issue of stray dogs in the MCC meeting. All councillors said that on urgent basis an agenda should be taken by MCC to tame the stray dogs. Pallav pointed out that actually the same bunch of dogs are sterilized, while for large number of them in Chandigarh – the City Beautiful, 'every dog has its day'!

Pallav is very critical not only with the functioning of Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh but with the whole system of our country. He said, "Elected people are meaningless, and there are very few politicians like P. Chidambaram and Pranab Mukherjee who cannot be fooled by the bureaucracy." Regarding 543 parliamentarians, Pallav suggested just go to the facebook and type out 'India against corruption', and you will know how it is!

Pallav felt Rotarians can make the difference. He said, "Rotarians can do a lot because they are not purchase-able." Rotarians can certainly play an important role for transparency in state governance. There has to be public accountability.

"The problem posed by Rtn. Pallav is grave. Rotarians and other

social NGO's need to work in unison to curb corruption all around. Corruption has many facets. It is equally prevailing in the Higher Judiciary," said Rtn. Ravi Tulsi, a reputed Lawyer, and disclosed many alarming facts including what the High court preaches does not practice and for want of implementation of High Court Rules for over 4 years common man is the sufferer. The orders recorded on the file can be different from what has been said in the open court.

Rotarians like Pallav and Ravi Tulsi, backed up by an effective team of dedicated Rotarians can play a significant role as Rotary can ask for a social audit. One needs to have a long chat with Pallav who has volumes of the inside story of MCC and the system which governs our country, and Pallav even has solutions to tackle the situations like, "Sarhak kachi te naukri pacci." We need a smart and honest governance. There should be no complicated laws. Pallav insists that there has to be judicious accountability. He concluded, "Knowledge or lack of it, that is the problem!"

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Sunita  March 15

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Neena & Rtn. Tejbans S. Jauhar March 11
R'ann Krishna & Rtn. Om Parkash March 12

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. D.K. Gupta  March 08
Rtn. M.K. Handa March 11
Rtn. Wg. Comdr. Kamal Nath March 11
Rtn. J.S. Chopra March 15

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Dr. I.S. Dua