

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. 48 Dated: 01 June 2021

PROGRAMME

Oxygen Capsule

A low cost life saver, for every home

Chief Guest:

Er. Mohit Shrivastava

Proprietor, Embedded Control Systems, Chandigarh

Date: June 04, 2021 (Friday)

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 6291653178

Password: 15228

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

The Future of Food

[Click here to watch on YouTube https://youtu.be/LvRsVvycS8Y](https://youtu.be/LvRsVvycS8Y)

In our virtual meeting on 28 May 2021 President Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia welcomed the chief guest, Prof. Michael Jones of Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. Other guests who joined us were AG Zone 15 Rtn. Dr. Parvesh Sablok, Rtn. Dharam Pal, Mr. Mohit Shrivastava Dr. Manu Jatana, Ms Lisha Arora and Ms. Khushboo Bhardwaj.

President Sanjay said that people have come forward in a big way to help those in need. He was pleased to welcome back amongst us R'Ann Bir Gulati who was hospitalized for her knees surgery. The President invited her for the invocation, a beautiful shabad, the English translation of which was well explained by PP Rtn. Ajit Gulati. The invocation was a prayer to God as He is the one who will take care of us under all circumstances, so we should have full faith in Him.

The chief guest was formally introduced by Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua.



Prof. Michael Jones

Prof. Michael Jones was born on 22 February 1948 and his first degree was in Natural Science (Biochemistry), at Cambridge University, UK. This was followed by a Ph.D. in Plant Biochemistry at Cambridge University, with Postdoc positions at the University of Missouri, USA in Plant Pathology and then he returns to the Biochemistry Department, Cambridge University for 3 years. He was then employed as a Senior Scientific Officer at Aberystwyth, Wales followed

followed with a prestigious Experimental Station as Plant cell Biology Coordinator in the Department of Biochemistry. After 8 years in that position, he was appointed as Professor of Plant Sciences at Murdoch University in late 1990. Murdoch University is a public university in Perth, Western Australia, and has also campuses in Singapore and Dubai.

He became Foundation Director of Western State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre in 1993, and his title was changed to Professor of Agricultural Biotechnology in 2003.

Prof. Michael has supervised more than 50 PhD scholars, obtained more than US 40 million dollars in competitive research grants, has published 270 scientific publications. Current research focuses on applying new breeding technologies to crop improvement, and on translation of research outcomes to commercial implementation. He has co-founded two companies.

Thanks to Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua and his PhD research scholar Ms. Khushboo Bhardwaj, for summarizing Prof. Michael Jones's wonderful presentation, as given below;

Professor Michael in his beautiful exposition stated that although human beings have been modifying the genetics of plants and animals for thousands of years through selective breeding, genetic modification, as now applied, refers to the introduction of specific foreign genes into an organism's genome through the techniques of molecular biology. Genetic engineering of organisms began in earnest in the 1970s with the ability of scientists to clone genes and insert them in bacteria. Such "transgenic" organisms could be made to produce the gene products of the inserted gene, allowing scientists to produce drugs such as human insulin and other biochemical products with ease.

Soon after, scientists were inserting genes into mouse embryos to produce transgenic animals for research. Other molecular biology techniques allowed scientists to "knockout" genes of



**Address by President
Sanjay Bhatia**

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interest to see what effect their removal had upon specific. He further elaborated that how few scientific avenues are as controversial in the public mind as genetic modification of crops. Many scientists are allured by the potential to increase food production, reduce use of pesticides and, ultimately, save lives. Detractors regard genetically modified (GM) food with suspicion and warn that scientists should not play God with nature. We need reasoned discussion – something that these few GM myths are too often blight.

Claim that GM foods are untested, this is not the case. GM foods have been tested to a huge degree, and numerous studies show no health or nutritional difference between GM and non-GM food. The World Health Organization puts it succinctly: “No effects on human health have been shown as a result of the consumption of such foods by the general population”. Claims linking GM foods to cancer, autism and various other ailments are also devoid of merit. GM food is incredibly tightly regulated in Europe; every new agent is subject to an intensive battery of tests and long-term trials by the European Food Safety Authority. Unnatural is common but subjective, given the problematic definition of “natural”. We have been genetically modifying crops and animals for thousands of years, selectively breeding species for new and desirable traits, yet this genetic modification is simplistically considered “natural”. Transgenic techniques achieve the same aim more precisely, and so far no evidence suggests that they are somehow more intrinsically harmful than what we have done for millennia. This is a textbook example of the naturalistic fallacy, an essentialist view where “natural” things are seen as good and “unnatural” things as bad. Arsenic, uranium, and Ebola are similarly natural, yet we would not sprinkle them on our breakfast cereal. The conflation of natural with healthy is a non sequitur that should not derail productive discussion.

These are just some of the common myths that circulate about GM food, too often shaping the tone of the conversation before it even begins. Yet with a world population set to hit nine billion by 2050 we cannot afford this blind reliance on dogma if we intend to feed the world without ruining the planet.

We cannot say with any certainty whether GM will be a big part of the solution, or even a feasible option, but answering this question requires research and pragmatism rather than poorly informed idealism. Science demands that even the most sincerely held belief be adjusted in the light of evidence – evidence that ideology all too often denies to preserve faith in an idea.

For query by Dr. Vohra with regard to organic food, Prof. Dua clarified, “Organic food is not relevant to global food requirement. The reason being that it is cursed with very low productivity. In order to meet an affordable production very high acreage of land is required and this will lead to major loss of biodiversity.”

In the end Prof. Michael Jones complimented Prof Dua, appreciating for his wide knowledge and expertise in popularizing science.



**Invocation by
R'Ann Bir Gulati**



**Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua and his PhD
research scholar Ms. Khushboo Bhardwaj**



It is a delight to know that there would be no shortage of food in the world in future, though there may be regulatory problem. There was an interesting interaction of attendees with Prof. Jones and Prof. Dua, which can be [viewed on our YouTube channel by clicking here](#). Like, comment and share to build Rotary image. Subscribe to our YouTube channel. Press the bell icon and keep watching!

Rtn. Rishi Kant Jha thanked Prof. Michael Jones for enlightening us about the history and bright future of food and that there would be choice to have a vegetarian or non-vegetarian chicken!



Virtual meeting in progress



**Vote of thanks
by Rtn. Rishi
Kant Jha**

Truth always Wins

Contributed by PP Rtn. Dr. Balram Gupta

Remember this Kenyan runner Abel Mutai who was just a few feet from the finish line, but became confused with the signage and stopped, thinking he had completed the race. A Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, was right behind him and, realizing what was happening, started shouting at the Kenyan to continue running. Mutai didn't know Spanish and didn't understand. Realizing what was taking place, Fernandez pushed Mutai to victory.

A journalist asked Ivan, "Why did you do that?" Ivan replied, "My dream is that someday we can have a kind of community life where we push and help each other to win."

The journalist insisted "But why did you let the Kenyan win?" Ivan replied, "I didn't let him win, he was going to win. The race was his." The journalist insisted, and again asked, "But you could have won!" Ivan looked at him and replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor in that medal?"

What would my Mother think of that?"

Values are passed on from generation to generation. What values are we teaching our children?

Let us not teach our kids the wrong ways and means to WIN. Instead, let us pass on the beauty and humanity of a helping hand. Because honesty and ethics are WINNING

Covid Rasoi of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown



Buddy Cabs led by Mrs. Sartaj Lamba donated 50 KGs Atta, 20 KGs Sugar and 15 KGs Paneer to our Rotary Rasoi, Saini Bhawan, Sector 24, Chandigarh, functioning since April 2021. Present from our Club were IPP Rtn. Salil Bali who has initiated this project and Vinod Nagpal (on wheel chair), President of our RCC for Persons with Disabilities, who is supervising a team of 40 volunteers to serve 350 meals per day to our Club's Covid Care Center at Aurobindo School, Sector 27, Chandigarh and home delivery to individual patients. Former Sr. Dy. Mayor Hardeep Singh is partner-in-service for this project.

'Oxygen on Wheels'



Buddy Cabs is also our partner in the need of hour project of our Club, 'Oxygen on Wheels', which was inaugurated on 16 May 2021 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajan Gupta, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court and Executive Chairman, Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA). His lordship appreciated the efforts undertaken by our Club to provide necessary relief to the persons in need.

This project is reported in [our bulletin No. 46](#) and [bulletin no. 47](#) and has received [wide media coverage in Doordarshan](#) and [Times of India](#) channel and in 32 newspapers.

Project 'Oxygen on Wheels' in association with Buddy Cabs and HSLSA is running successfully in Chandigarh Tricity. This service has touched / saved lives of about 200 patients till date.

Vaccination for Disabled in special camp

From
The Director Social Welfare
Women & Child Development
Chandigarh Administration

To
4
Organizing Secretary, Indian Council for Child Welfare,
Sector 23, Bal Bhawan, Chandigarh

ICCW/U.T/Branch
Diary No. 12457
Dated...21/06/2021

(as per list of NGOs)

Memo No. : SW2/COVID-19/2021/2731-46
Dated, Chandigarh the 31/05/2021

Subject: **Special Camp for COVID-19 vaccination for the Persons with Disabilities of 18 years & above in Chandigarh in the 2nd week of June, 2021 at Vocational Training Centre, Aasha Kiran, Sector 46-D, Chandigarh**

Reference subject cited above.

It is intimated that a Special Camp for vaccination of **Persons with Disabilities of 18 years & above** in Chandigarh is being planned in 2nd week of June, 2021 at Vocational Training Centre, Aasha Kiran, Sector 46-D, Chandigarh.

It is requested to send a list of Persons with Disabilities and staff of your NGO/Institution/Trust/Voluntary Organization as per proforma attached within 2 days for vaccination. Date & time for vaccination will be intimated in due course.

[Signature]
Nodal Officer (Disability),
For Director Social Welfare,
Women & Child Development,
Chandigarh Administration.
21/05/21

Please contact:

Vinod Nagpal (Mobile No. 9256444900, 7009665800)
President
Rotary Community Corps for Persons with Disabilities
Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

JUNE

"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals."
Idowu Koyenikan

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Click here to listen to the invitation from RI President

Rtn. Holger Knaack.

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_2WtFy10TGd61MnNb.mp4?1620659775

[Click here](#)

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Donations for Rasoi Project

Ms. Neelam Kumari	Rs. 1000
Ms. Neena	Rs. 500
PDG Rtn. Yoginder Diwan	Rs. 5100
PP Rtn. Anil K Mehan	Rs. 5000
PP Rtn. Ajit Singh Gulati	Rs. 5000

Birthday of Spouse

R' Ann Sudershan 05 June

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Preety and PP Rtn. T.S. Anand 08 June

R'ann Sudha and PP Rtn. Ashok K. Puri 09 June

R'ann Dr. Joginder and PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee 10 June

R'ann Deepti and Rtn. Anup Sharma 10 June

World Tobacco Day



Health Webinar



Women's Health Webinar for awareness of emotional and nutrition health of women on 29.05.2021

हरियाणा के 18 और जिलों में खोले जाएंगे तंबाकू निषेध केंद्र

चंडीगढ़। प्रदेश के 18 और जिलों में तंबाकू निषेध केंद्र खोले जाएंगे। साथ ही लोगों को तंबाकू छोड़ने के लिए भी लगातार जागरूकता अभियान चलाया जाएगा। फिलहाल प्रदेश के पंचकुला, कुरुक्षेत्र, अंबाला और गुरुग्राम में चार तंबाकू निषेध केंद्र चल रहे हैं।

यह जानकारी स्वास्थ्य विभाग की महानिदेशक डॉ. वीना सिंह ने दी। वह सोमवार को डिजिटल तौर पर आयोजित किए कार्यक्रम में 'विश्व तंबाकू निषेध दिवस 2021, अभियान' के शुभारंभ पर संबोधित कर रही थीं। डॉ. सिंह ने कि डब्ल्यूएचओ की थीम कमिट 2 वरीय थीम को नरों के आदी लोगों के मन में बैठाने के लिए विभाग लगातार प्रयास कर रहा है। विभाग ने कवलप्रीत सिंह, ओजस्वी व स्वतंत्र भारत जैसी मशहूर हस्तियों को भी जोड़ा

फिलहाल कुरुक्षेत्र, अंबाला, पंचकुला व गुरुग्राम में चल रहे हैं ये केंद्र

है। एडीजीएस डॉ. वीके बंसल ने कहा कि तंबाकू स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है।

राज्य मानसिक स्वास्थ्य एवं तंबाकू कार्यक्रम के नोडल अधिकारी डॉ. एमपी शर्मा ने एक प्रस्तुति के माध्यम से नशा छोड़ने वाली विभिन्न तकनीकों पर बताया। उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, हरियाणा की संयुक्त निदेशक डॉ. अंजु मनोचा ने भी तरीके सुझाए। कार्यक्रम का आयोजन तंबाकू नियंत्रण प्रकोष्ठ, हरियाणा द्वारा उच्च शिक्षा विभाग, रौतरी चंडीगढ़ मिडटाउन और जेनरेशन सेवियर ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के सहयोग से किया गया था। इस मौके पर राष्ट्रीय तंबाकू नियंत्रण

जिंदगी चुनो, तंबाकू नहीं : मनोहर लाल

चंडीगढ़। विश्व तंबाकू निषेध दिवस के अवसर पर प्रदेश के सीएम मनोहर लाल ने कहा कि जिंदगी चुनो, तंबाकू नहीं। प्रदेशवासियों से अपील करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि 'आए विश्व तंबाकू निषेध दिवस के अवसर पर हम संकल्प लें कि न नशा करेंगे, न नशा करने देंगे'। जारी संदेश में मुखमंडल ने कहा कि जन सामान्य में तंबाकू सेवन, धूम्रपान का बहुत खतरा समाज को अंधकार की ओर धकेलता जा रहा है, जिसका एकमात्र उपाय जागरूकता ही है। व्यूरो

कार्यक्रम की स्टेट नोडल अधिकारी डॉ. रीता कोतवाल, डॉ. रीता कालरा और राज्य तंबाकू नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम से डॉ. गुलशन मौजूद रहे। व्यूरो

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Design & Printed at:
Satyadeep Offset Printers (P) Ltd
292, Industrial Area, Phase II
Chandigarh. Ph.: 4624942
Email: salil.bindra@gmail.com