



# The Mid Towner

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## Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

R.I. President  
WILLIAM (BILL) BOYD

District Governor  
DHIAN CHAND

President  
DR. V.J.S. VOHRA

Secretary  
R.K. LUTHER

Editor  
ASHISH AHUJA

## Programme



Please do attend

FRIDAY - DECEMBER 29, 2006

Volume : XXXI No. 26; December 27, 2006

## CELEBRATIONS - NEW YEAR 2007

Dance to Music by : D.J.

Compered by : R'ann Maniki Deep

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh



Time : 6.30 P.M.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-08



PP Dr. Balram Gupta declaring the unanimously elected Board 2007-08



PP Dr. Balram with members of the new board present during the meeting

Chairman Election Committee, PP Dr. Balram Gupta announced that there was total unanimity for the elections of the Board of Directors for the Rotary year 2007-08. In addition to PE Sandeep Sandhu as President, DGE Shaju Peter as DG, Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra as IPP, the Rotarians declared elected unopposed were :

Saroj Jhavar (President Elect 2008-09), R.K. Luther (Vice President), Atul Grover (Secretary), A.K. Sachdeva (Treasurer), Munish Jauhar (Joint Secretary), Arjan Singh, Dr. Nitin Mathur, Ashish Singla & J.S. Bawa (Directors) and PP Capt. M.S. Kahlon (Sgt. at Arms).

### Open House Discussion on Death Penalty

After the declaration of the board of 2007-08, President Dr. Vohra invited PP Dr. Balram Gupta, a Senior Advocate, to lead the Open House discussion on Death Penalty. There is a

persistent trend internationally to abolish the death penalty but India is among the countries that retain it and although India still practices capital punishment, it is rarely used.

A 1983 ruling by the Supreme Court stated that the death penalty should be imposed only in "the rarest of rare cases". Since this is not further defined and no clear guidelines exist, the use of death penalty is largely dependant on the interpretation of this phrase by individual judges. Dr. Balram clarified that in certain cases death penalty has been justified, though it is a very sensitive issue for the court to order a capital punishment. Various factors are taken into account before pronouncing a death penalty or a life imprisonment.



Only particularly gruesome or politically sensitive cases have attracted the penalty. The assassins of India's independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi, and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were among those executed in the past 60 years.

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In India the death penalty is carried out by hanging. An attempt to challenge this method of execution failed in the Supreme Court, which stated in its 1983 judgment that hanging did not involve torture, barbarity, humiliation or degradation.

There was even a suggestion for public hanging. At this juncture, Rtn. Arjan Singh expressed his dissent. Ann Indu Luthra was in favour of capital punishment. "Nobody has a right to take the life of any person and if someone does, he has no right to stay alive himself", she said. PP Rtn Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta suggested that murder cannot be compensated with another murder. Rtn. Gurdip Deep was also not in favour of death penalty, neither was Ann Lovy Peter. She said that life imprisonment should literally mean for full life. There should be no parole release after 7 years or 14 years. Rtn. RaviTulsi was also not in favour of capital punishment.

Rtn. Atul Grover took a philosophical stand saying that a murderer should be given full life imprisonment. He talked about karmas and said that in case the convict is eliminated with a death penalty, he will take re-birth and would continue his killing instinct even in the next life!

There were more discussions to follow on the topic but for lack of time, the meeting had to be adjourned. If any member would like to give his / her comments on the subject it would be welcome and would find a place in the bulletin.

 Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

## Birthdays & Wedding Anniversary Celebrations



B'day boy PP Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta & Ann Santosh, having their b'days on same day, get their gifts from PP Dr Balram Gupta



Rtn. Vinod Sobti gets his b'day gift



Ann Maniki & Rtn Gurdip Deep celebrate their wedding anniversary



B'day boy Dr Nitin Mathur & Ann Archana.... also celebrate their wedding annv this week





Rtn. Raj Jain & Ann Bhawna of Rotary Club in Albany, N. Zealand, have shifted to Chandigarh



Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra gets the Punctuality award from PP Dr. Balram Gupta

## Pallav is Nominated Member of Chandigarh M.C.



An analytical thinker & an architect, PP Pallav Mukherjee is among the nine councilors, nominated by the UT Administrator for the next term of Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh. Ever since the civic body came into being ten years ago, one of the nominated councilor has been from our club. Mrs. Surya Pandit was nominated to the first MC. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon is the nominated member of the outgoing body and now Pallav would there in the incoming one.

👍 Congratulations Pallav, and wish you all the very best ! 👍

**BLOCK THE DATE: Sunday, 14th January, 2007**

For Bon Voyage to DGE Shaju Peter & Ann Lovy at Yamunanagar

- AG Capt. Moni Kahlon
- Pres. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra



**DG. Rtn. Dhian Chand**

& members of

**Rotary Club of Yamuna Nagar**

Cordially invite you

to

**HOTEL SAPPHIRE, Jagadhri**

on

Sunday, 14th January, 2007 at 10.30 AM

to wish

**DGE Rtn. Shaju and Anne Lovy Peter**

**Bon Voyage**

for their training Programme to San Diego, USA

### PROGRAMME

10.30 - 11.30 Hrs.  
11.30 - 13.00 Hrs.  
13.00 Hrs.

Arrival at the Venue  
Meeting  
Felicitations & Fellowship  
followed by Lunch

President  
**Rtn. Kapil Gupta**  
+91-98120 51531

Secretary  
**Rtn. Atul Gupta**  
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R.S.V.P.  
**DGN. Rtn. Satish Saluja**  
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## GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to China. On his first day he was inside a church, taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read "\$10,000 per call". The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by, what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Japan. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in China and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "O.K., thank you," said the American. He then traveled to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Germany and France. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same "\$10,000 per call" sign under it.

The American, then decided to travel up to India to see if Indians had the same phone. He arrived in Kerala, the southern state in India and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read "One Rupee per call."

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. "Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in the countries that I have visited, the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "Son, you're in God's own country now, it's a local call".

-Contributed by Rtn. J.S. Chopra

### LET'S WELCOME 2007 WITH DHAMAKA!

So another year coming to an end....why not get together to bid adieu to 2006 & welcome 2007, with zeal, enthusiasm & hope....hope for a better world, hope for smiles on every face & hope for a new tomorrow!

Fellow Rotarians & Anns, please bring your children & grand children for a gala evening at our regular meeting on Friday, Dec. 29, 2006. Let's dance to the thumping beats played by the DJ. Fancy dress costumes would also be available.....and so will be the FELLOW SIP!

See you there & let's have fun.....

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rtn. Harbans S. Bajaj  
Rtn. Balraj Singh



Jan. 01  
Jan. 01



PUNCTUALITY DRAW :  
Won by Pres. Dr.V.J.S.Vohra



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