

THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTRICT 3080

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Editor
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Programme: - Friday, Jan. 11, 2008

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Assistant Governor Rtn. Baldev Agarwal's Official Visit

Venue: - Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : - 6.30 PM



The speakers : Mayor Mr. Chhabra, Dy. Mayor Mr. Kalyan & Mayor 2007 Mrs. Harjinder Kaur

Mayor Chandigarh Mr. Pardip Chhabra, Mayor 2007 Mrs. Harjinder Kaur, Deputy Mayor Mr. Harphool Chand Kalyan and our PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee, a Councilor of the MC Chandigarh were there bang on time for our weekly meeting of Jan 04 2008.

Mr. John Krich, a journalist and writer for the Asian Wall Street Journal and the National Geographic Traveler, and Mr. Gaurav of Chandigarh Tours and Travels graced the meeting with their presence.

Vice President Rtn RK Luther, after a few

announcements, asked PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee to introduce the speakers, Mayor Mr. Chhabra, Mayor 2007 Mrs. Harjinder Kaur and the Deputy Mayor Mr. Harphool Chand Kalyan. Rtn Pallav described the background of all the speakers and explained their constituencies in detail. He said that all of them are keen and devoted workers and are committed to the development and improvements in the City Beautiful that is Chandigarh. He requested the Mayor Mr. Chhabra to come to the podium and explain his vision for the city of Chandigarh for the year 2008.

Mayor Mr. Chhabra thanked the Rotarians for inviting him and his colleagues to the Club to discuss and share the vision to develop and improve Chandigarh to a world class city system, and wished the audience a very Happy and Fruitful New Year 2008. He admitted that the MC Chandigarh has a great responsibility to meet the aspirations of the people of Chandigarh and make it a functional example to the rest of our great country. He plans to formulate avenues to discuss and get ideas from the people of Chandigarh so that the plans of the MC are in tune with the aspirations of the people. He further elaborated that he is very keen to involve the NGOs for this purpose and to ensure that the implementation of the plans is of high quality and cost effective. Mr. Chhabra promised that he would encourage and bring in transparency into the system to improve the quality of work as also to eliminate corruption. He said that he would take steps to empower women, to improve the functioning of the paid parking system and promotion

of art and cultural activities in the city. He promised that he would pay particular attention to the economic well being of the needy, sanitation and hygiene in the city and outside the city in the villages of UT. He declared that various colonies, the "Jhuggi Jhonprdees" must be improved to a livable standard of civic amenities, cleanliness and sanitation. He explained the plans that have already been initiated for the management of about 400 tons of garbage that the city throws up every day. For this the state of the art garbage disposal set-up is nearing completion and more safai karamcharis will be enrolled to keep Chandigarh UT areas clean and tidy. Machines that pick up dirt are also being procured. Facilities to wash garments, on payment are being installed in some selected sectors of the city, a kind of automated dhobi ghats.

Mr. Chhabra further promised that all suggestions will be carefully evaluated and if found feasible will be



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Memento for the Dy. Mayor



Memento for Mayor 2007

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implemented. He thanked our Rtn Atul Grover who has initiated a blog on the internet- savechandigarh.org the blog will pass on the suggestions to the MC Chandigarh and the replies thereto by the MC, received on telephone, will be digitized and put on the blog, all this on an automated electronic system.

Mr. Harphool Chand Kalyan thanked the Club to arrange this interaction between the learned Rotarians and the MC Chandigarh. He said that the Mayor has explained the plans of the MC and assured the audience that he would give full support to the Mayor to implement the plans and to improve the functioning of the MC at all levels. He added that he was highly impressed by the cleanliness and the upkeep of the public places and facilities in Singapore. We are far behind Singapore in all respects and his efforts would be to initiate plans to make the UT Chandigarh as clean and as well maintained as he found in Singapore.

Both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor insisted that the

people of Chandigarh will see a change for the better in the City in the days to come.

The audience hoped that the MC will " Walk the Talk " .

Mayor 2007, Mrs. Harjinder Kaur said that development and improvement are the aims of the MC Chandigarh irrespective of which political party is in command. She said that she has given exhaustive notes to the Mayor regarding the projects and plans that have already been undertaken by the MC. She explained that she did not play politics during the year that she was the Mayor and worked for the City within the constraints of the system. She further clarified that the MC House has problems with the system particularly the bureaucracy. This problem, of course, depends upon the personalities involved and she emphasized that the Mayor needs to be empowered to prevent such hurdles. All the speakers highlighted this issue. She further explained that she worked apolitically



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towards achieving a better way of life in the UT Chandigarh and again emphasized that her commitment is to Chandigarh and not to politics.

The Mayor 2007 elaborated the change in the demography of Chandigarh in that there are many big players in the Information Technology, Health Care and Real Estate that are making a bee line to the City and the surrounding areas. This influx needs a change in the thinking and planning process of the MC, she advocated. She explained, so did the Mayor that Rotary and MC should work hand in hand to improve the quality of life and the business and industrial climate in the UT Chandigarh.

The Vice President then threw the discussion to the House for a very interesting, constructive and fruitful question-answer session. Rotarians Suraj Handa, Arjan Singh, PP Kahlon and Ravi Tuli heated up the session with very logical and fruitful suggestions and observations. PP Kahlon, supported by a number of other Rotarians, wanted the paid parking system to be streamlined and accountable. PP Kahlon suggested a computerized entry and exit system for the paid parking areas, as is the case in New Delhi and foreign countries. Rtn Ravi Tuli wanted a comeback for the flowering trees on the roadsides and the parks of the City Beautiful. Rtn Arjan Singh wanted the areas in Sector 17 A and B to be cleaned and spruced up.

All the suggestions were noted by the Mayor and the

Deputy Mayor and they requested the Rotarians to send their suggestions either by e mail or by post.

Rtn Arjan Singh proposed the vote of thanks and emphasized that all is not well with the functioning of the MC and that this needs a close scrutiny.

Professor Dr. Miss Meera Modi takes over as Principal Dev Samaj College for Women.

Miss Meera is the Coordinator of the Rotaract Club Chandigarh Midtown of the Dev Samaj College for Women Chandigarh, sponsored by our Club, and helps the Rotaract Club to keep a close liaison with our Club. She not only coordinates the activities of the Rotaract Club but also initiates activities in the College and outside among the needy people of UT Chandigarh particularly the children.

She earned her PhD in Sanskrit-Philosophy in 1983 and has been teaching in the College for the last 23 years. She is a life member of the Bal Sadan Panchkula.

We congratulate Dr. Miss Meera Modi on her promotion and hope that she continues her interest in



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rtn Dr. Dinesh Sahajpal

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Rtn Mohinder Singh

Jan 17



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