



THE MID TOWNER

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

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Editor
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Programme: - Friday, July 20, 2007 Vol. XXXII No. 3 July 18, 2007

Panel Discussion-Parking Issues in the City Beautiful

Panelists: - **Mr. RK Rao IAS, Deputy Commissioner, UT Chandigarh**
Mrs. Harjinder Kaur, Mayor, Chandigarh

Venue: - Hotel President, Sector 26, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh.

Time: - 7 PM

INITIATIVES IN UT CHANDIGARH

Mr. Vivek Atroy HCS, the speaker for our Club Meeting on July 13, 2007, had his schooling in Jaipur, London, New Delhi and St John High School Chandigarh. Got his degree in Electronics and Communications from Regional Engineering College (now National Institute of Technology) Kurukshetra in 1988. As Director IT UT Chandigarh from 2000 to 2006, he earned laurels locally and nationally to bring Chandigarh on the IT map of the country. He was bestowed with the e-Governance Champion Award by Data Quest North Zone. His contribution has given Chandigarh the status of the best e-Governance state in the country by the Government of India and the Computer Society of India. Mr. Vivek Atroy, at present, is the Director Public Relations, UT Chandigarh.

Rtn RS Sachdeva introduced Mr. Vivek Atroy. He described Chandigarh as the happening place and Mr. Atroy as the architect of IT climate and other initiatives in Chandigarh.

Mr. Atroy introduced the subject by giving the example of the consumer goods manufacturing and marketing companies in India, who test their products in Chandigarh because the people of Chandigarh have

exposure, are aware, demanding and responsive to ideas and are assertive.

The learned Speaker explained that the idea of a Smoke Free Chandigarh has been around the think tanks of Chandigarh. Smokers and non-Smokers, both have their rights and these rights must be honored. Smokers should have a place to smoke and the non-Smokers must not be exposed to passive smoking. A solution to these two requirements has to be worked out and implemented. The move to make Chandigarh a smoke-free City may or may not succeed but Chandigarh will show the way to the rest of the Country. There are laws to prohibit smoking in public places but these laws and rules have to be elaborated and implemented.



Guest Speaker Mr. Vivek Atroy, HCS

Traffic is another issue in Chandigarh that has the highest number of automobiles per capita and this number is increasing day by day at an alarming rate. At the same time, the road length in the City remains constant. The roads and parking spaces are crowded and accidents are frequent. Ways must be found to reduce the congestion on the roads by improving the public transport system, by



The Cuncilors



Vote of Thanks

making it costlier to drive in and near the City Center, and encourage car-pooling. Another way to reduce the congestion on the roads is to make the City cycle and pedestrian friendly, as the distances from the residential areas to the nearby markets are small. The learned speaker hoped the think tanks of Chandigarh and its

people would find a way and show the path to the other cities in the country. He emphasized that Rotary can play a big role in solving the congestion by creating awareness and setting personal examples.

The population increase of Chandigarh is more in the form of labour and unskilled persons than the influx of professionals. This has affected the standard of cleanliness in the City and has brought in the practice of encroachments on public land. We have to work out humane and workable methods to stop or reduce this downgrading of the city standards and the aspirations of the professional and the migrant labour. On these issues again, Rotary can help in creating awareness on keeping the City clean and green. The learned Speaker was happy that the green cover of the city has shown a steady increase (Rotary has significant contribution in the increase in the green cover).

Mr. Attray advocated public participation in finding solutions and hoped that concerted efforts on the part c



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Happy Birthday bite for Rtn Sihota

the Administration and the people of Chandigarh will find workable solutions and will show the way to the rest of the country. The question he posed to the attentive audience was " Can we do it? " and the answer was spontaneous " Yes We can Do It ".

The President Rtn Sandeep Sandhu then asked for any questions, and PP Rtn Kahlon asked about the increase in the consumption of liquor. Mr. Attray explained that there is a difference in consuming liquor and smoking in that there is no passive drinking by the non-drinkers. Rtn Kahlon also suggested the Chandigarh web site should display the efforts to make the city a smoke-free city.

Rtn Tejbans Jauhar brought out that the traffic police harass the cars with other state registrations and which, mostly, belong to the tourists and that this leaves a bad taste with the tourists. Mr. Attray stated that the Administration is aware of this issue and the traffic police have been asked to look into this.

Rtn Cdr. Nagra said that there is also a good side of the



Teji, The Winner of Punctuality Draw

UT Police. He cited an incidence on the night 4/5 March 2007, when thieves entered their house. They called the Police who were there in minutes. Anne Nirmal Nagra explained another such good response when, during the admission rush in July 2007, she was passing by the MCM DAV College and got badly stuck in the traffic jam, she called the Police and they were there even sooner than minutes and controlled the situation. She added that such good response by the UT Police should be appreciated and brought to the notice of the public.

Rtn Ashish Ahuja brought out the poor state of roads in the industrial areas of the City. PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee, a Councilor of the City, introduced the other councilors present in the meeting i.e. Dr AP Sanwaria, Mr. Jetinder Bhatia and Mr. Kalha. He also suggested that there should be a single window information center to answer queries of the tourists as well as of the locals. Mr. Attray welcomed the suggestion.

Rtn Gurdip Singh Deep proposed the vote of thanks and


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suggested a vision document for the city to plan for the next 25 or 50 years. Rtn Deep, on behalf of the Club presented a memento to Speaker of the Day, Mr. Vivek Attray HCS.

Ode to the City Beautiful

At the end of the meeting Rtns Atul Grover (Club Secretary) and Ashish Ahuja sang a song eulogizing the City Beautiful. They composed the song. They participated in the City Song Competition organized by the Chandigarh Tourism and Public Relations Cultural Affairs Department in collaboration with Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Academy at the Tagore Theatre on 14 July 2007. More than 15 participants from SAS Nagar, Panchkula, Chandigarh and Ambala took part in the Competition. All the songs were woven around the life and culture of Chandigarh. The purpose of the



Ode to the City Beautiful

competition was to help compose a city song of Chandigarh. Well done Atul and Ashish to pick up courage and hone your talents to represent the Midtowners in such a competition.

A Request By the Chairman Programme Committee

Rotarians, who organize speakers and other events of the Club, are requested to give a brief to the Editor well before the Programme, say a week or a fortnight, so that the event is publicized to popularize it and increase attendance.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rtn. Atul Grover

July 23



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

R'ann Anupam & Rtn. Rakesh Jain

July 23



PUNCTUALITY DRAW

Won by Rtn. Tejbans S. Jauhar

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