



THE MID TOWNER

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



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Wilfrid J. Wilkinson

District Governor
Shaju Peter

President
Sandeep Sandhu

Secretary
Atul Grover

Editor
Col AJS Gill

Programme: - Friday, July 27, 2007

Vol. XXXII No. 4 July 25, 2007

INSTALLATION

Please Note
the Change
in the Venue.

Chief Guest: - Dr. Farooq Abdullah, M.P., Former Chief Minister J & K.
Guest of Honour: - Mr. H K Dua, Editor-in-Chief The Tribune

Venue: - Auditorium, CII, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.

Time: - 7 PM

OUR CHIEF GUEST DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH

Born on the 21st of October, 1937, to an illustrious father, the legendary Lion of Kashmir - Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, our Chief Guest Dr. Farooq Abdullah has seen tumultuous times. In fact his family has been in the hot seat of J & K politics for almost a century now!

Being only ten years old at the time of the partition of India, he was witness to crisis after crisis, especially in his hometown of Srinagar, which the Mughal emperor Nurruddin Salim Jehangir once described as Paradise on Earth!

He, along with his two brothers & two sisters, and his tough & resilient mother of European descent, Begum Akbar Jehan (died: 11th July 2000), underwent tough times because his father was mostly in & out of jail, including a period of house arrest almost up to the year 1968! He was sent away to England in his early years, but came back to study medicine in Jaipur at the Sawai Man Singh Medical College.

He entered politics by default, having chosen a career in medicine. After getting his degree from Jaipur, Rajasthan, Farooq proceeded to England to practice. In 1965, when he was a doctor in the Yarmouth Hospital in Norfolk, he met a British medical student, Mollie. Three years later, on the 14th Sept. 1968, they married and settled down in Southend-at-Sea.

They have three daughters & one son the intelligent, erudite &

hard hitting Omar Abdullah who, on October 13, 1999, took oath as the youngest Union Minister of State, Commerce and Industry. On July 22, 2001, he was made Union Minister of State, External Affairs. The youngest daughter, Sara, is married to Sachin Pilot, while Omar is married to Payal Singh, a Sikh girl. Speaks a lot for their attitude & inter-cultural tolerance!



They are grandparents several times over, & very doting ones at that.

You all have met him before, considering that he was an honorary member of our club in the Rotary Centennial Year 2004-05 & spent the evening with us on the Installation of the Rotary Centennial Team led by PP Pallav Mukherjee.

Here are some of the things he has achieved & done:

- Member of the 7th Lok Sabha 1980-82.
- Member of the J & K Legislative Council- 1982-83
- Minister of Health, Govt. of J & K- 1982
- Member, J & K Legislative Assembly - 1983-87, 87-90, 96-00

- Chief Minister, J & K- 1982-84, 1986-90, 1996-2002
- Member of the Rajya Sabha- 2003 -2004
- Committee on Defence- 2004 onwards

He is the recipient of the prestigious Dr. BC Roy Award.

Besides being a Doctor of Medicine, he has a D. Litt. (Honoris Causa) from the AMU, Aligarh.

He became the President of the National Conference in the year 1982, of which he is now Patron.

He is a keen golfer & is a member of several Golf Clubs in Delhi & Kashmir & even the Royal St. Andrews Club in Scotland, the home of Golf!

He is a keen photographer, & widely, in fact very widely traveled! And he also sings well Arjan Singh, Saroj Jhwar & Gen. Kahlon & my wife Joginder can vouch for that! He is fond of classical music & ghazals & Urdu poetry. Deepa Bhar knows that.

He loves biking, so do I, & has quite a collection!

And, a great friend to have!

PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee



Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown
Programme Of Installation Meeting Friday, July 27th 2007, 7.00 PM

Venue : CII Auditorium, Sector 31, Chandigarh

Chief Guest : Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Member Parliament

Guest of Honour : Sh. H. K. Dua, Editor in Chief 'THE TRIBUNE'

Master of Ceremonies : PP Rtn. Capt. Moni Kahlon



- 7:00 PM Registration
- 7:15 PM Arrival of Chief Guest and Guest of Honour
- 7:30 PM Meeting called to order by Sgt-at- Arms PP Rtn. Capt. Moni Kahlon
- 7:32 PM National Anthem
- 7:34 PM Lighting of Lamp
- 7:36 PM Welcome by PE Rtn. Mrs. Saroj Jhwar, Presentation of Bouquets
- 7:41 PM Lead the Way Rotary Year 2006-07 by IPP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S.Vohra
- 7:56 PM Installation of President Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu
 -Exchange of Collar, Seats, Name Plates.
 -Handing over of Club Charter by Secretary R.K.Luther 2006-07, to Secretary 2007-08 Rtn. Atul Grover
- 7:58 PM Introduction of President Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu by PP Rtn. Capt. Moni Kahlon
- 8:02 PM Introduction of new team and Address by President Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu

- Induction of new member. Pin by Distict Governor.
- Disbursement of two micro loans
- Introduction of New PHF
- Memento to IPP
- 8:17 PM Good Wishes from District Governor Rtn. Shaju Peter
- 8:22 PM Introduction of Guest of Honour by PP Rtn. Dr. Mrs. Vanita Gupta
- 8:25 PM Address by Guest of Honour Sh. H. K. Dua, Editor in Chief 'THE TRIBUNE'
- 8:35 PM Introduction of Chief Guest by Rtn. Mrs. Deepa Bhar
- 8:39 PM Address by Chief Guest Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Member Parliament
- 8:54 PM Presentation of Mementoes to Chief Guest, GoH, DG and AG
- 8:59 PM Celebrations of Birthday and Marriage Anniversary of Club Members
- 9:01 PM Vote of Thanks by Rtn. P.K. Verma
- 9:05 PM Meeting Adjourned By President Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu
- Fellowship and Dinner.

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PAID PARKING

A panel discussion was held on the issue of paid parking in the City, in our Club meeting of 20 July 2007. The scheduled panelists Mr. RK Rao, DC UT Chandigarh and Mrs. Harjinder Kaur, Mayor Chandigarh, could not participate due to the exigencies of service.

Mr. Arshad, Councilor MC Chandigarh and Mr. Jetinder Bhatia Councilor MC Chandigarh and our PP ML Sarin, Mac to us all, participated as panelists. Mr. Manjit Singh Chauhan, Deputy Mayor, Chandigarh and Mr. RC Jakhu, Councilor, Chandigarh, were kind to be present in the meeting.

PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee, Councilor MC Chandigarh, introduced the panelists.

President Rtn Sandeep Sandhu introduced the subject and said that the subject of paid parking has been discussed in the media and in various forums and is taxing the minds of the people in Chandigarh and, therefore needs attention of the Rotary Clubs of the city. He requested Mr. Arshad to give his views on this very hot topic of the day.

Mr. Arshad, a well-traveled person, nationally and internationally, spoke in favour of the practice of charging for the parking space in the crowded parts of the city, as is the practice all over the world. He explained that any Government or Administration needs revenue for the development projects for the people and this is

one means of revenue, which has the side advantage of some reduction of traffic in the congested area and enforces a bit of order in the parking. He put a strong rider in that where paid parking is justified, the allied quality services to parking must be ensured by the Administration.

Next to give his views on the subject was Mr. Bhatia who spoke in favour of charging for the parking space. When questioned by the audience about the poor service and bad organization on the part of the contractors, Mr. Bhatia responded that efforts are being made to improve this aspect of paid parking in the city. He also enumerated the steps being taken by the MC to provide high-rise multi-storey parking spaces in the city.

PP Mac Sarin traced the history of parking situation from 1991 and explained the reasons for the present difficult situation. He said that the visionaries of the 1950s ensured that Chandigarh remain a dream city for the 50 years and it did, but we have had no visionaries after that and we are in a mess. Let us create awareness for having some vision and some planning for our future generations, he proposed

Open discussion, after the presentations by the panelists, was interesting and brought out many useful ideas. Rtn PK Verma proposed the vote of thanks and suggested "park & ride centres".



Happy Birthday Atul



Memento to Atul & Arshad by the Dy. Mayor



Pallav introduces the Panelist


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OUR GUEST OF HONOUR

Mr. H.K. Dua, Editor-in-Chief, The Tribune

Mr. H.K. Dua, currently Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune, installed Rtn. R.K. Goyal as President in Aug. 2005. He is one of the senior most journalists of the country, having already served as editor for over 11 years in three leading national dailies. He has been the Editor of the Hindustan Times, Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Express and Editorial Advisor of the Times of India.

Mr. Dua's journalistic career spans over three decades. His major areas of interest are political and international affairs. He has reported Parliament, political parties, two wars with Pakistan, several general elections etc. He is also a commentator on national and international affairs in his column as well as on TV channels.

While in news coverage, he has always emphasized credibility, on the editorial pages, he is known to take bold and non-partisan position on major issues of national concerns. He has also encouraged debate on vital issues on opinion pages so that readers have access to different viewpoints.



During his extensive travels abroad as a journalist, Mr Dua has interviewed several distinguished world leaders. They include Margaret Thatcher, China's Li Peng, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Iran's Rafsanjani, among others.

Mr. Dua was the President of the Editors' Guild of India for two terms.

He has served as Press Advisor to two Prime Ministers - Mr H.D. Devegowda and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. He was appointed Ambassador of India to Denmark prior to his taking up his present assignment.

Mr. Dua has several prestigious honours and awards to his credit, apart from the Padma Bhushan which the President conferred on him in 1998 for distinguished service to journalism. He has received the Durga Rattan Award for Excellence in Journalism, the Freedom of Information Award, the G.K. Reddy Award and the B.D. Goenka Award.

PP Rtn. R.K. Goyal



Birthday Greetings :

IPP: Rtn. Dr. V.J.S.Vohra July 30
Rtn. Om Parkash August 02



Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Neeru & Rtn. Raj Kumar Khattar July 29

R'ann Savita & Rtn. Rajneesh Ahuja

August 01

R'ann Dr. Sudha & Rtn. Dr. B.R. Jain

August 02



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