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Programme: - FRIDAY – May 23, 2008

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Canada - Land of Opportunity

Speaker : Mr. Baleshwar Virk from Calgary, Canada

Venue: President Hotel , Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time: 7.00 PM

Sports in India Need an Overhaul

We had three shooting champions of India in our weekly meeting of May 16, 2008, the two guest speakers, Harisharan Singh and Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu, and our own Rtn Kanwarjit Singh Ghuman.

PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee introduced the guest speakers and kept the audience interested by giving some facts of the Olympics, and traced the origin of shooting from the pre-stone-age era.

Mr. Harisharan Singh, popularly known as Channi, started his sport of shooting from the young age of 16 years. An uncle who was in the Army motivated him to take up this sport and encouraged him to improve his shooting skills.

Mr. Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu, started his shooting carrier young and went on to achieve remarkable places in the national and international events.

Both of them excel in .22 skeet and air rifle events. They practice at an average, 5-6 hours a day. The sport is costly and they spend about Rs. Three thousand every month. Harisharan says that their results in the nationals and internationals are better than their results in the Olympics. This may be due to the pressure that the Olympics build on the participants.

He said that the Indian performance in the Olympics has been poor. Our score, in Olympics, is only sixteen medals

in twenty nine Olympics, and eight of them in the game of field hockey. It is a pity, he added, that we are a populous country and do not have even one gold medal in the individual athletic events. Something is wrong and let us first find out what is wrong and then find ways and means to correct that wrong. Most of us blame the Government or the administrative bodies dealing with the sports. This is only partly true. Money does play a part but it is not the end-all and be-all. There is, probably, some deficiency in our psyche or in our genes or in our schooling that keeps us so low in the performance of sports and athletics. One thing is certain that Indian parents, mostly, do not encourage their children to excel in sports even when the child is showing some promise. There is more emphasis on academic achievements than on the sports skills. This is due to the large population and very few opportunities of career and professional growth.



The two shooters have founded an organization, Playsports, to promote sports and sports events and entertainment events. Their first major event was the Akali vs Congress cricket match as a fund raising event in support of the sports competitions of the challenged persons. Both the events were great hits and got good exposure on the electronic media.

Playsports is organizing an Indian Sports Debate at 7.00



Mementoes for the Guest Speakers

PM on 13 June 2008 at the Chandigarh Club Chandigarh. Harisharan emphasized that it is time we take our weaknesses in sports seriously and look within our system as well as outside; especially the way China and Australia produce winners consistently. What is lacking in us, is it the commitment or is it the focus or is it the facilities? We must find out the reasons and correct them. The debate-cum-discussion will focus on finding ways and means to put India amongst the major contenders in all team sports as well as in individual events and games. This should set in motion a process to produce winners in all types of events and sports.

Debates will also be organized at school and college levels before the main event on 13 June 2008.

Sports Celebrities and Sports Federation Officials have been invited for the debate and most of them have confirmed their participation.

Suggestions and thought provoking ideas can be submitted at the e mail address - playsports.in@gmail.com or by post to : Playsports #26, Phase 3A, SAS Nagar 160 059

Rtn Kanwarjit Singh Ghuman proposed the vote of thanks and, on behalf of the Club, presented a memento each to the guest speakers.

District Assembly RID 3080, Make Thy Dreams Real

The Assembly was held on 4 May 2008 at Hotel Peterhof Shimla. By the latter half of the 19th. Century the British had created Simla, so called after "Shyamala Devi", as their summer capital. At least seven other Viceroy's had housed themselves in the Viceregal Lodge after the Earl of Elgin who occupied the Lodge in 1863. This building has now been converted into the Heritage "Hotel Peterhof".

It was in these regal environments that the "District Assembly" for the Rotary Year 2008-2009 took place.

The arrival of a District Governor from the International Assembly always inspires Rotarians. This time too the atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm of Governor Satish Saluja. The attendance was substantial, which,

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Gift for the Punctuality Draw Winner



Happy Anniversary Gift

translated, actually means that the enthusiasm permeated to the grass-root level.

In our Club, the exercise began almost two weeks ahead, with President Saroj Jhawar, calling up potential attendees. Over the next two weeks, the program materialized, with the help of P.E. Gurdip S. Deep, who arranged a comfortable overnight stay for Midtowners at Hotel Crystal Palace. Accompanying our Leader, President Saroj & Sita Ram Jhawar were, Director Prem Anand & Indu Anand, Deepak Sood & his wife Poornima, and Malabika & Indrajeet Sengupta . The journey began on Saturday May 3 morning, with the expectation to drive straight to Shimla. By the time the troopers arrived at Dharampur for breakfast, the program had changed. A detour was taken to Chail for Lunch at the Chail Palace Hotel. The drive from Kandaghat was amazingly serene. By the time gang arrived at the Hotel, Maniki & Gurdip joined in. With Gurdip around, only celebrations can be expected. It was a late night with plenty of singing and some great conversation.

The next morning, we were joined in by AG R.K. Goel & Kundbala who had arrived a day earlier too, Secretary Daulat Ram Agarwal, Director Vinod Jawa, Treasurer Ashish Singla, accompanied by Sangeeta, and their daughters, Aditi & Somya, and none other than our flamboyant Past President Pallav Mukherjee.

Inspite of the delicious breakfast, the attendees kept themselves awake, attending every session. As is the expectation of all Rotarians, PRIP Rajendra K. Saboo, spoke brilliantly, without mincing words.

Camaraderie was the hallmark of the entire session, without diluting the seriousness of the work to be done ahead. The weather was cool and sunny, the precision clock-work. So it was exactly at 2.30 pm the Assembly concluded for a sumptuous lunch.

What could one expect after a gorgeous lunch? Sleep! Those in chauffer driven cars were asleep the journey back. Pity for those who drove back themselves!!!!

- A Midtowner

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Rotary International President Elect Rtn DK Lee and Ann Ms Young Ja Lee Grace the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh.



The Celebrations were held in Hotel Mountview Sector 10, Chandigarh. The dynamic couple from Korea traveled all the way to celebrate the special occasion with the Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh. More than 300 Rotarians and their spouses attended the celebrations.

Following Midtowners were honoured for the recognitions of Multi Paul Harris Fellow and Paul Harris Fellow.

- PP Rtn BL Ramsisaria MPHF
- PP Rtn DP Khandelia MPHF
- Ann Sandhya Khandelia PHF
- Aditti Ramsisaria PHF Grand daughter of PP Rtn BL Ramsisaria
- Alok K Ramsisaria PHF Son of PP Rtn BL Ramsisaria
- Neeta Ramsisaria PHF Wife of Alok Ramsisaria
- Miss Anyaa Bindra PHF Grand Daughter of PP Rtn Subhash Bindra.

Get Well Soon

Rtn RTPS Tulsi was indisposed and was admitted in the PGI hospital. He is now recovering at home. The Midtowner wishes Rtn RTPS Tulsi a speedy recovery.

Update your Roster

IPP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, H. No. 1134, Sector 44-B, Chandigarh-160 047
Ph. : Clinic/Res. : 0172-2623620, M. : 98140-06829



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

PP Rtn. R.K. Goyal

May 25



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

R'ann Kiran & Rtn. Ashok K. Sharma

May 23

R'ann Rekha & PP. Rtn. Anil K. Mehan

May 29



PUNCTUALITY DRAW Won by PP Rtn. Ajit S. Gulati

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