

Humour in Civil Service

Mr. Vivek Atray, HCS, our Guest Speaker on Friday, January 28, 2011 was welcomed by President Rtn. Prem Anand, who also acknowledged the presence of his father-in-law, Mr. Des Raj Sood, Retd. Technical Member of Himachal Electricity Board and Mr. Vinod Vij, Chief Engineer (Retd.).

Mr. Atray had given impressive and meaningful talks in our club meetings on couple of occasions. He addressed us on 7th July 2006, the first meeting of Rotary year 2006-07 when Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra was the President and Mr. Atray, then Director Public Relations, Chandigarh Administration, gave an educative and informative multimedia presentation regarding "E-Governance in Chandigarh" and the



Mr. Vivek Atray

ambitious plans the administration had for the future. On 13th July 2007 during the tenure of Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu as President, Mr. Atray spoke on "Initiatives in UT Chandigarh."

Mr. Atray was introduced by IPP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep. He did his schooling in Jaipur, London and St. John School Chandigarh. In 1988 he graduated in Electronics and Communications from National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra. As Director Information Technology, UT Chandigarh from 2000 to 2006 he was responsible for bringing Chandigarh on the IT map of India. Govt. of India also recognized his contribution for giving Chandigarh the status of the best e-Governance city in the country. Though a civil servant by profession, but his heart lies in the cricketing world. In his school days he played cricket at the national level in the under 19 age group.

IPP Gurdip said, "Way back in 1960's we have been reading

Readers Digest and there was always something known as 'Humour in Uniform'. Every type of service has its own brand of humour. There is humour in banks and even in golf." He added, "We also have humour in courts and today Mr. Atray will speak on Humour in Civil Service."

In his talk Mr. Atray picked up humour from real life. He said, "Humour is visible and available in every sphere of life and we have to look out for it and one should be ready to have a laugh." Life without a sense of humor would be difficult. Life has been inspired by the ability to laugh in a tough situation and smile at the miseries of life. One feels relieved by these little glorious moments of humour, which indeed is a great blessing, a wonderful gift of God. Greatest battles of life can be overcome with good sense of humour.

If we can keep a cool head by being sensible and light-hearted about the situation, definitely the chances are that solutions would emerge on its own. Gloominess, depression and melancholy can only add miseries to life. But humor can brighten up life, inspire the mind and spark the brain to look for way outs. That is why sense of humor is a must for a healthy living. Mr Atray said "There is nothing as funny and humorous as real life." He added, "It is your attitude which makes the situation humorous or not." Humour is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. Whenever you are in conflict with someone, there is one factor that can make the difference between damaging your relationship and deepening it. That factor is attitude. Our attitude toward life determines life's attitude towards us. A man is as humorous or happy as he has convinced himself he is.

Mr. Atray said, "my current status in service is also a little humour." After over two years of sabbatical, he joined back 40 days ago and since then he is looking forward to being assigned his post. He said there are people senior to him who are also awaiting their postings. As long as the government does not take a decision, the humorous part is that the officers are enjoying paid holidays!

Mr. Atray referred to a popular BBC TV serial, 'Yes Minister'

and 'Yes Prime Minister'. The minister always finds it difficult to tackle the bureaucracy. The bureaucrat comes up with such impossible answers that the minister could never win against the bureaucracy. He gave some quotes from 'Yes Minister', "If people don't know what you're doing, they don't know what you're doing wrong."

The politician always wants the work to be done on priority. The bureaucracy has its own procedures to stall or delay the proposal brought by politician. Whereas the minister wants to get his proposal through the same day, the bureaucracy may like to do it next year or not at all! There are many ways the bureaucracy frustrates the moves of the minister. If the minister wants the work to be done, the bureaucrats will find ways and means of not doing it, and can use such language in their notings which confuses the minister. For example, "It is a good idea but the time is not well. The proposal has run into technical, logistic and legal difficulties which are to be sorted out." Bureaucratic language can be very painful. Another one is, "Never refer to matter or reply to minister's notes."

One real life humour to which Mr. Atray referred was that one of the officers needed a stool under his office table to rest his legs as advised by the doctor. He requested his boss who asked him to send a note and the file traveled from various babus to accounts officer to finance department and all concerned officials and this went on for so many weeks that there was large number of papers in the file with notes and explanations that the file itself had become as thick as the height of the stool required by him. So he solved his problem by using this file instead of the stool!

Mr. Atray talked about some personal humorous situations. At the age of 26 he was posted as SDM at Kalka and spent three years there. The main attraction for the ministers, secretaries, judges and VIPs was the Pinjore garden. So as SDM he had to shut up his office and literally camp at Pinjore garden. During his tenure there was a film shooting at Pinjore garden, starring Madhuri Dixit in 1996. The first day was kept a secret. There were no mobile phones in those days. But next day it appeared in the newspapers and SDM had a hectic task for arranging meetings of all VIPs with Madhuri Dixit, whereas he himself

could go no where near her!

After three days of protocol and security with the film crew, his Deputy Commissioner said that he will handle the situation personally and the SDM was deputed for some urgent work at Chandigarh. The D.C. was watching the shooting with his family and rest of the crowd was stopped 100 meters away. One of the persons in the crowd was a VIP with his gun man, who forced his way for the VIP and when the D.C. personally stopped him (his own gun man was some where else watching the shooting), the VIP's gun man, not recognizing the D.C., gave him two slaps! Next day this incident came out in newspapers and the funny part is that SDM Atray was blamed for not protecting his D.C.

Mr Atray narrated another incident. There was a mango mela in Pinjore garden. The then Agriculture Minister of Haryana, Mr. Harpal Singh was the Chief Guest. All VIPs and senior officers kept waiting for him but he never arrived. On calling his residence at Chandigarh, the SDM was told by his staff that the Minister is sleeping. Meanwhile, the then Governor of Haryana, Mr. Dhanik Lal Mandal, stopped at Pinjore garden on his way back from Shimla. It was an unscheduled visit. Seeing every body with bouquets and garlands he was pleased to observe, "You came to know that I would be here." The Governor accepted the garlands and bouquets and even inaugurated the function, with out knowing that he was doing



PP Rtn. Dr. Balam Gupta presents a memento to Mr. Vivek Atray.

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it on behalf of the minister who was sleeping at home!

Mr. Atray narrated another incident when the rioters had blocked the Kalka-Chandigarh highway. The situation was extremely tense. He was driving the Police gypsy himself. Seeing a red coloured switch on the dash board, he pressed it and loud music blasted out of the vehicle, a popular Hindi song, "Tu Cheez Badi Hai Mast Mast"

Coming to missing files, which is a common feature in Govt.

departments, Mr. Atray pointed out that, "Matter is under consideration means the file has been lost. Matter is under active consideration, would mean we are trying to find the missing file."

Expression of gratitude was offered by PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta, who remarked, "What a pleasant evening, full of humour." He thanked Mr. Vivek Atray on behalf of the club for presenting humour out of his personal experience.



Mr. Vivek Atray presents wedding anniversary gift to PP Rtn. Saroj Jhavar. Secretary Rtn. Deepak Sood wishes good luck to her & Sita Ram ji



R'ann Pushpa & Rtn. Vinod K. Jawa get wedding anniversary gift from Mr. Vivek Atray.



PP Rtn. R.S. Chandgothia bags the punctuality award, which is presented to him by Mr. Vivek Atray



Birthday gift to H/Rtn. Suraj Handa from Mr. Vivek Atray. Looking on is Secretary Rtn. Deepak Sood

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Official Visit of District Governor – 11th Feb. 2011

Official visit of District Governor Rtn. Madhukar Malhotra will be on Friday, February 11th, 2011. PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma, Chairman and PDG Shaju Peter, Master of

Ceremonies are working out a detailed programme which will be reported in the next bulletin.

eMakeUp For Visiting Rotarians

First, let us review the Rotary eClub of District 3080, proposed by our club. The matter is under serious consideration of our core committee, headed by GSR, PDG Shaju Peter. In its lasting meeting held on 6th January 2011, PP Capt. M.S. Kahlon, PP Sandeep Sandhu and Rtn. Atul Grover had taken up the responsibility of getting the Charter members for the proposed eClub, which has to be 25, as per latest RI directions. We expect prompt actions to get the eClub chartered!

However, we should appreciate the initiative of Rotary E-Club of District 3150, the first web-based Rotary Club in India. They have introduced a new feature which is eMakeUp opportunity for visiting Rotarians to their Club website as part of their Club Service. Members of any Rotary Club can now use this utility for eMakeUp of attendance for the missed programmes and meetings of their home Rotary Club.

Best part is, the user gets instant Attendance Report that pop up on the monitor. The eMakeUp Attendance Report can be printed or forwarded to the Club President or Secretary or Attendance Officer.

One need not register for anything to obtain eMake-up. Simply follow the Rules and easy steps described in this module. Click eMakeUp menu button on top of home page of <http://www.rotaryclub3150.org>.

This is an electronic Rotary Club based in Rotary International District 3150 covering parts of Andhra Pradesh State in India. Membership is not limited to this District as they serve the Rotary World. This club is hybrid in nature which means that they also meet face-to-face as frequently as possible.

Rotary E-Club of District 3150 operates and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on internet.

District Mega Medical Camp on 6th Feb. 2011

As reported in the previous bulletin, District Mega Medical Camp is being organized on 6th February 2011 (Sunday). But the venue has now been shifted to Labour Colony No. 5, Govt. Primary School, Sector 50-A, Chandigarh, where the Medical

Camp will be held from 9 am to 2 pm.

President Prem Anand requested all Rotarians, “for their presence at the mega camp to give a boost to the organizers and for the betterment of the community.”

Donation for Medical Camps

Rtn. Ashok K. Puri

Rs. 1000/-

Birthday of Rotary Anns

R'ann Raj Kapoor

February 10

Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Sompal S. Malik

February 05

Rtn. Mrs Davinder K. Singh

February 06

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

February 07

Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon

February 09



Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Bir & PP Rtn. Ajit S. Gulati

February 04

R'ann Neerja & Rtn. Anil Nagpal

February 08

PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta & Dr. B.C. Gupta

February 09

R'ann Manju & Rtn. Jawahar Jain

February 09

R'ann Sarabjit & Rtn. J.S. Bawa

February 10



Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. R.S. Chandgothia