

2014-15

# The Midtowner



Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

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Club No. 15228  
R.I. District 3080

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Secretary  
Salil Bali

Editor  
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXIX No. 36 Dated: March 03, 2015

## PROGRAMME Holi Celebrations

In collaboration with Walker's Club  
and residents of Sector 6, Panchkula  
*Lots of fun, music and games organized by:*  
PP Rtn. R.K. Luther and VP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra  
(There is no registration fee...!)

Venue: Green Park in Sector 6, Panchkula  
Opposite H.No. 24/6 of PP R.K. Luther and  
H.No. 21/6 of PP Subhash Bindra



Friday, March 06, 2015

Time 11.00 a.m.

## Three Parent Baby - A boon or a bane for the Society

In our club meeting on February 27, 2015, we had an audio visual presentation on 'Three Parent Baby - A boon or a bane for the Society' by Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua, Professor Emeritus & Former Chairman, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He was introduced by PP Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep. Prof. Dua is M.Sc. and Ph.D from I.A.R.I, New Delhi and post doctorate from Calgary University. As a dynamic and proactive academician, he possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to make effective use of limited resources, both inside and outside the lecture theatre or laboratory. He has many prestigious awards and honors. He was winner of Rockefeller Foundation fellowship (1969-73).

He was honored with Kalinga Award in 2009 for his life-long commitment to the development of science in India. He has been the recipient of Senior Scientist Medal in 2008 for his contributions in the field of Molecular Physiology and has been elected to the Linnaean Society of London in the same year. He has been the recipient of Darwin Bicentenary Gold Medal for his four decades contributions in popularization of evolutionary biology and making it to percolate to all the niches of society. His acumen-ship in blending biology with philosophy was validated when he was chosen to preside over The Indian Philosophical Society meeting. He has been the former President of Society for Plant Research (India).



Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua

philosophy was validated when he was chosen to preside over The Indian Philosophical Society meeting. He has been the former President of Society for Plant Research (India).

Vice President Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra who took complete charge of the meeting in the absence of President Rtn. Ravi Tulsi, started the meeting with a prayer for invocation, by showing a video of a song by Lata Mageshkar from the film 'Lagaan', "O palanhare, nirgun aur nyare, tumare bin hamara kaunon nahee....."

After this Dr. Rita congratulated the **two District Leadership Academy graduates** from our club, PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra and Director Community Service Rtn. Ashok Puri, who accomplished this program successfully in 2013-14 and received their certificates

during the District Conference at Dehradun on 21st February 2015.

On 22nd February, the second day of the District Conference it was a proud moment for all Chandigarh Midtowners present there when **PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria** was presented the **most prestigious 'Service Above Self' award of Rotary International**, which was loudly applauded by all members present during the meeting. Dr. Rita requested PDG Shaju Peter to give the highlights of this great achievement of BLR, the second such award for a Rotarian of our club, the other one being Late Rtn. Suraj Handa.

Service Above Self Award was presented to PP B. L. Ramsisaria, for which the citation was read by IPDG Rtn. Rakesh Aggarwal in the District Conference. Service Above Self Award is a recognition given to grass root Rotarians who have exemplified themselves with selfless humanitarian service. Every year Rotary International selects awardees from nominations received from all parts of the world. This is considered the highest honour to a Rotarian. BLR, a charter member of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown, with 100 percent attendance, served as the club president in 1980-81.

The club adopted lepers colony in Sector 47, Chandigarh as its

**'Service Above Self' awardee - PP B.L. Ramsisaria**



PP B.L. Ramsisaria with his 'Service Above Self' award. Looking on are PDG Shaju Peter and VP Dr. Rita Kalra

signature project during his tenure and with his efforts 72 leprosy patients, mostly couples, were fully cured and rehabilitated under a club project and 42 houses were constructed. This remains as one of best community service projects undertaken by any club for that matter in District 3080. What makes his contribution unique is the fact that he continues to engage himself in the up-gradation of the various facilities in the lepers' colony like community kitchen, dispensary, installation of water filters and augmentation of the members of dwelling units. Many Presidents of Rotary International have visited the colony and appreciated the efforts of Rtn. Ramsisaria in bringing cheer and smile in the lives of the inhabitants of the leper's colony. Through the other organizations too many social and welfare services are provided to the poor and downtrodden people with BLR's active involvement and financial contribution. He is Founder Member and Trustee of Rajasthan Parishad, Regd. (A Cultural and philanthropic society), Life Member of District Red Cross Society, Chandigarh, Life Member of Indian National Theatre, Chandigarh and Patron Member of Society for Blind Care, Chandigarh. A very well informed Rotarian, he is the Administrator of the RI District 3080 Leadership Academy and District Headquarters at Chandigarh.

Our heartiest congratulations to our senior most past president and a very respected Rotarian B.L. Ramsisaria for the very well deserved honour of Service Above Self Award, which was due to him long before, but let it be late than never.

In his very impressive and colourful presentation, **Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua** on the eve of science day which was on 28th February, gave a unique presentation under the title, '**Three Parent Baby - A Boon or a Bane for the Society**'. In a very well crafted power point presentation capsule he showed a further leap from the world of biotechnology by revealing how the British Parliament members have just made a ground breaking decision, one that no other legislature has so far been willing to contemplate, by ratifying a bill for the production of a baby with the involvement of three parents by selection or choice.

Prof. Dua surmised the total ontogeny of the development of a baby right from the period of conception till the birth and projected the finer details involved in the process of producing a three-parent baby. The presentation beautifully deciphered that in reality every human cell comprises two main parts: the nucleus and the cytoplasm. The nucleus contains the DNA, the genetic code that helps shape inherited traits. The cytoplasm is the workshop of the cell, where most day-to-day functions occur. Among its constituent parts are mitochondria, tiny organelles (organ like units within a cell) whose job it is to provide energy. Each mitochondrion contains tiny amounts of its own DNA, some 37 genes compared with the 20,000 or so in the nucleus. Mitochondrial DNA plays no part in determining an individual's inherited traits, such as those that shape appearance or talents. But if it malfunctions, it can cause terrible conditions like

muscle weakness, seizures, blindness, deafness and organ failure. There are more than 50 mitochondrial diseases, affecting at least one in every 8,000 children (some suggest the figure is much higher). There are currently no cures.

Prof. Dua deciphered that how in a three parent in vitro fertilization (IVF) which involves taking the nucleus of one egg and inserting it into the cytoplasm of another egg which has had its nucleus removed, but still contains mitochondria DNA and then fertilizing the hybrid egg with a sperm the fertilization is executed. The purpose of the procedure is to remove a nucleus from a cell with defective mitochondria and place it in a donor cell with healthy mitochondria, which after fertilization will contain a nucleus with genetic material from only the two parents.

Although the donor egg is said to contribute only 0.1% to the genetic makeup of the child, the examination of the genetic material of these children will unambiguously reveal the heritage from three identifiable genetic parents. This is due to the fact that the donor egg usually comes from a non-maternal relative. For a child having undergone this procedure to have only two identifiable genetic parents, the donor egg must have come from a maternal relative (this is because mitochondrial DNA is inherited maternally; thus maternal relatives will have identical mitochondrial DNA, barring random mutations). Maternal relative egg donation is not commonly used, because if the female egg has a mitochondrial disease then it is highly likely that the maternal relatives inherited the disease as well. Supporters say the procedure will enable women to avoid passing on certain severe and even deadly genetically inherited diseases. But many regard the new law as an unwise, even immoral, move — the first step toward the creation of 'designer babies'. Some even see it as a new experiment in eugenics.

Prof. Dua showed that how the biotechnological vistas are replete with examples where the technology has helped to achieve a genotype to move closer to its optimum weird model, in a facilitated fashion over a lesser period of time as is apparent through the innovations in GM technology. What the nature executes through its different agents namely mutation, genetic drift, gene flow, assortative mating or natural selection thereby resulting in a change of allelic frequency nomenclature as evolution followed by its probable natural selection bring a novel change. Such a process has been occurring in the last 3.8 billion years and has synthesized a collage what we call biodiversity. However, the natural process is too slow and what the technology has done in the last twenty years is to expedite such vernal combinations, with utmost care and precautions, through genetic engineering. Scientific issues on nuclear reactor, or GM crops have produced a well behaved and decipherable science.

Prof. Dua candidly stated, "Why be jingoist when we can be more at ease with science? Is meeting science with science a lost form of art?"

**Rtn. Vinod Sobti**

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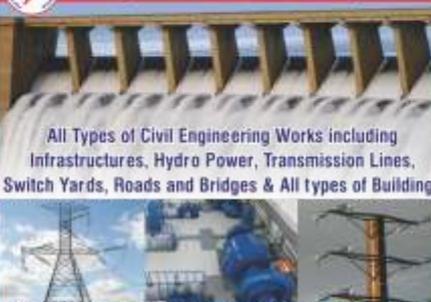


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**PP Rtn. T.S. Anand**



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Why behave like church responding to a humble Galileo?" He added, "It shows we lack immunity to certain kinds of scientific realities and our sense of science is still very skin deep and those who are opposing this move are keeping the humanity and putting its welfare timetable in abeyance."

Vote of thanks was proposed by IPP Rtn. Deepak Sood, who acknowledged Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua as a very knowledgeable speaker and thanked him for a very scientific, interesting and a wonderful

presentation.

Dr. Rita welcomed Dr. Sangita who attended the meeting. She is daughter of Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra.

Dr. Rita congratulated the editor, PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra as our bulletin has been applauded for a very wide coverage of the District Conference. She added that our bulletin has been giving a good image of the club, and is very popular amongst the Rotarians of our District.



IPP Rtn. Deepak Sood presents a memento to Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua. Looking on are VP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra and Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali



Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua presents a birthday gift to Rtn. Dr. Anurag Sharma. Looking on are VP Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra and Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali



Prof. Dr. Dua presents birthday gift to R'ann Shradha Sachdeva



Prof. Dr. Dua presents wedding anniversary gift to R'ann Shashi & PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta



Prof. Dr. Dua presents punctuality award to Rtn. Davinder K. Singh



PDG Shaju Peter honours Ms. Ruchi Luthra. Looking on are Secretary Salil Bali and VP Dr. Rita Kalra

In the meeting Dr. Rita introduced Ms. Ruchi Luthra (B.Tech in electronics from Kurukshetra University), a very hardworking and dedicated teacher of our Adult Centre in Kundan International School, Sector 46, Chandigarh. With her tireless efforts she made the students read and write in English in a short time, whereas when they joined this centre they could not even write in Hindi. Ruchi belongs to Chandigarh. She is now going back with her 7 year daughter to her husband, a software engineer in USA.

Dr. Rita also informed that literacy programs in the schools would be suspended for March 2015 because of examinations. Rotaract Clubs are planning cleanliness drive and save the girl child program. Two multi-speciality medical camps will be held this month. Career guidance seminars for Govt. schools are scheduled for April. Our Club has initiated a scholarship zonal project under the Chairmanship of AG Rtn. H.S. Saggi, on March 22, 2015. DG Rtn. Col. Dilip Patnaik will be the Chief Guest.

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## Best terrace garden award in spring festival



In spite of his busy schedule Dr. Sanjay Kalra, a well known dental surgeon and husband of our Vice President Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, finds time to work in his terrace garden and has won Best Garden Award for last 14 years in succession in the spring festival organized by HUDA

## Towards Total Literacy



Adult Centre Nayagaon – 11 students promoted to class 2



Adult Centre Jagatpura - 18 students promoted to class 2

VP Dr. Rita Kalra and Director Community Services Rtn. Ashok Puri visit both the Centres

## Get well soon

Rtn. Lalit Kumar Azad is admitted in Alchemist Hospital in Panchkula, where he has undergone a surgical intervention. Though still in the hospital, he is improving. We wish him a very speedy recovery, sound health and happiness.

PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee had to rush to Kolkata as his mother was not well. Though she is better now, she is undergoing treatment and regular check up at the hospital. We wish her sound health and a speedy recovery.

## Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. R.S. Sachdeva

Rtn. D.K. Gupta

Rtn. M.K. Handa

Rtn. Wg. Comdr. Kamal Nath



March 06

March 08

March 11

March 11

## Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Asha & Rtn. Vinod Sobti

R'ann Neena & Rtn. Tejbans S. Jauhar

March 06

March 11

## Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Mrs. Davinder K. Singh



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