

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

2015-16

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

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K.R. Ravindran

District Governor
David Hilton

President
Mrs. Kanan Diwan

Secretary
Sanjay Bhatia

Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXX No. 46 Dated: May 17, 2016

PROGRAMME

Rotary is Changing
A Review of CoL 2016 by
PDG Shaju Peter

Date: **May 20, 2016 (Friday)** Time: **7.00 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

Journey of an Unrepentant Civil Servant

In our regular meeting on May 13, 2016 the Chief Guest Mr. Robin Gupta, I.A.S. (Retd.), Formerly Financial Commissioner, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Punjab was welcomed by President Kanan Diwan who addressed him as an officer with unblemished service record. Mr. Robin Gupta was formally introduced by PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra. Born in Delhi on 1st October 1948, Mr.



Mr. Robin Gupta, IAS (Retd.)

Robin Gupta joined the I.P.S. in 1972. After a brief stint in the police, he joined the I.A.S. in 1974. He has been posted as Divisional Commissioner on seven separate occasions, a record in the history of the Indian Civil Service. Also, Robin Gupta has the distinction of having served in four states; Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, apart from a long tenure with the

Central Government. His final posting was Financial Commissioner Revenue in the rank of Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab. Widely travelled in India and abroad, an international scholarship holder who studied in the USA and renowned institutions - Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, and the St. Stephens College, Delhi, Robin throughout his career has been writing poetry and prose on diverse subjects ranging from nature, history, art, music, culture, to Sufism. Apart from writing for leading newspapers and journals, Robin Gupta authored 'A Bouquet of Thoughts' published by the Minerva Press, London, in 2002. In the words of Khushwant Singh, "Robin Gupta has writers' ink flowing in his veins." An acclaimed Orator and an author, he also writes for Rotary News. Having travelled far and wide across the country and the world and, with an active role in India's governance and politics, observing it grow and change over the last four decades, he had authored another book, 'And What Remains in the End', the Memoirs of an Unrepentant Civil Servant, published in 2013 by Rupa Publications. This book is also available online through Amazon and Flipkart. It is philosophical, sensitive and laced with gentle humour, except for a few laugh-out-loud instances, as when his trusted staff suggests that he turn his beloved farmhouse, opposite, Sector 25 in Panchkula, into a marriage palace! Dr. Vohra said, "During my recent visit to this beautiful farmhouse I not only enjoyed Robin's affectionate hospitality, but he also offered that our club could have picnic and parties in this attractive place, which is full of greenery and fountains. During his talk he again invited us to his farmhouse.



**National anthem by R'ann Maniki
Deep and R'ann Sudha Puri**



**Welcome address by
President Kanan Diwan**

Mr. Robin Gupta started his talk by his appreciations for the good work that Rotary has been doing. He briefly gave background of his family in civil service for 140 years, and that after him this family tradition would come to an end.

Through his book he provides a window into that evolution of India, and the part played by civil servants in its advancement. He not only gives an account of a rich life but also a portrait of a country in motion and a testament to those who dedicated their lives to serving their nation. He also talked about the gradual deteriorating moral values in the civil services and how the system plays to the tune of politicians. His observations about officers and politicians are revelatory. The moral fibre is missing.

Mr. Gupta narrated a 40 year fight for justice by Dayawanti, an old lady who became widow before partition at the young age of 16, to get back her property. He finally passed an order, and even helped her to physically take over her small house. But couple of years later she died, donating her property to a mandir.

He was shunted from one posting to another on the whims of higher powers he refused to indulge. But happily he faced the ups and downs of his eventful career. He talked about general decline in quality of our administrative and military structure.



PP Dr. Balram Gupta presents a memento to Mr. Robin Gupta

There was a time when there was no RTI and no media to expose the flaws in the system. Mr. Gupta writes in his book, "The civil servant has fallen victim to the post-independence political dispensation, where his power and postings are determined by his pliability and loyalty. Merit or expertise very rarely has anything to do with an officer's career graph."

Despite these irritants, in his book he says, "Still, I can't deny the sense of satisfaction I feel because the job did give me opportunities to help, to change people's lives." As the title of his book says nothing remains at the end, except your own sense of self satisfaction that you tried to do your job ethically and not fallen prey to the moral degradation.

Mr. Robin Gupta had an interesting interactive discussion with the audience, and Sr. Advocate Rtn. R.S. Sihota even requested for his valuable advice in one of his pending matters.

PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta thanked Mr. Robin Gupta for his wonderful and frank talk. Knowing Robin since his younger days, Balram said, "He remains the same in spite of his spinal ailment. I enjoyed the richness in his writings. His journey as a civil servant was full of challenges, and he had been doing justice in true Rotary spirit – a mosaic of service. Thinking and acting positively is what has made Robin's journey successful." Robin immediately responded, "Balram is my teacher."

The guests welcomed in the meeting were: Mr. Jaswinder Singh (PE Amarjit Singh's guest), Mr. Shashikant Adokar, Mrs. Deepali, Dr. Navgeet son of Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua, Mr. Robin Gupta's Physiotherapist Dr. Zickey Marya and his long-time aide, Mr. Shukla and other personal staff.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of PP Rtn. Sarabjit Singh of Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik on his untimely and sad demise on 12th May 2016. May God grant strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

As a mark of respect one minute silence was observed in our regular meeting on 13th May 2016.

Teaching Students the Skills



Rtn. Rekha Sawhney gives useful talk to students



Another useful talk to students by Rtn. Suman Gupta

Career Counselling Seminar

Inspired by the success of first Career counselling seminar held at GMSSS Mauli Jagran on 6th May 2016, Midtowners led by Director Vocational Service PP Raj Kumar Luther conducted another seminar at GMSSS Manimajra Town on 11th May 2016. While PP R.K. Luther gave details of Skill Development Programs run in collaboration with CCET-26, PE Amarjit Singh gave an interactive talk on Career in Hotel Management which developed an instant interest among the students. PN Dr. Rita Kalra spoke on opportunities for Arts stream students in Para-medical services. Rtn. Atul Grover gave a detailed presentation on "Sarva Kaushal". Speaking in Hindi PDG Shaju Peter gave information about Rotary and took by surprise the answer of a student who correctly gave the name of founder of Rotary. Many students gave their names to PE Amarjit Singh for Skill Development Program which will start from 1st August 2016.

Skill Development program for disabled students

PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra who is a member of State Advisory Board of SARTHAK, working in the field of 'Sustainable Development' of Persons with Disability, in its meeting held on 13th May 2016, informed about our Skill Development Program run in collaboration with CCET Diploma Wing. He said all eligible persons with disabilities would be welcome to join this 6 months program, starting from 1st August 2016.



PE Amarjit Singh informs about District budget 16-17



PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra introduces the Chief Guest



Invocation by R'ann Indu Luthra



Secretary Sanjay Bhatia gives glimpses of week



Vote of thanks by PP Dr. Balram K. Gupta



Wedding anniversary gift for R'ann Guninder and Rtn. Prof. Dr. I.S. Dua presented by Mr. Robin Gupta



President Kanan Diwan presents punctuality award to PP Rtn. Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma. Looking on is Secretary Sanjay Bhatia



Recognition in cardiology, 'Shining Star' to Dr. Sangita daughter of Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra and R'ann Indu Luthra

Medical and dental camp



Patients receive free medicine



Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra and his Smile Express



Medical and dental checkup camp was organised at village Maheshpur on occasion of Mother's day on May 08, 2016. About 230 patients registered and received free medications and consultation. Free diagnostics was available courtesy KAPS Diagnostics, Panchkula. Smile Express from Dr Sanjay Kalra Dental Clinic examined 68 patients. Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra gave a talk on hygiene for good health followed by hand washing demonstration. Dr. Sanjay Kalra gave brushing demo on a model, which was enjoyed by children. Ms. Surinder organised the venue and publicity of the camp. Registration was done by R'ann Sudha

Puri. PDG Yoginder Diwan was present and he sponsored free medicines. On special request by our President, Dr. Anjali and Dr. Y.M. Aggarwal attended to the patients. We had active volunteers: President Rtn. Kanan Diwan, Secretary Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia, R'ann Ritu, Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor, Rtn. Jeetan Bhambri, Rtn. Salil Chopra, Rtn. Ashok Puri, Vijay Laxmi ANM, Dr. Ashish, Ajay Dental Assistant, Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra, our prospective member Mr. Shashikant Adokar and Mrs. Deepali who are attending our meetings regularly. Hot tea for all was prepared by R'ann Renu Chopra.

Residential Workshop of the Leadership Academy

Rotary District 3080 leadership academy held its 15th residential workshop on April 29 to May 01, 2016 at Hotel Shivalik View Sector 17, Chandigarh. Eleven participants from various clubs in the District attended the 3-day programme. President Elect Hardip Anand from Yamunanagar was accompanied by his spouse Guneet who, though an observer, actively participated in the workshop.



The inaugural session on 29th morning had DG David Hilton as the Chief Guest and PRID Yash Das as the Guest of Honour. Chairman and the architect of the programme PRIP Raja Saboo explained the concept of the programme to the participants and introduced the two professional trainers Ms. Inderjit Kaur and Ms. Navneet Sandhu for day 1 and 2. Dean of the Academy PDG Major Som Dutt explained the ground rules of the Academy to the participants.

The third day was focused on success of principles and the relevance of ethics in one's personal and professional life. This was handled by Ms. Sudithi Jindal, coach and trainer and a budding novelist. In the concluding session PRIP Raja took the feedback from all the participants which was eloquently positive. Associate Dean PDG Shaju Peter thanked everyone involved especially Administrator PP B.L. Ramsisaria for the meticulous planning that made the workshop satisfying for every participant.

On the second day evening every participant took part in the cultural programme. President Elect of Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik Dr. V.D. Singh, stole the show with his incredible performance of a solo dance to a Bollywood tune.

Rtn. Sanjay Bhatia

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Lakshya - District Training Assembly



Addressing the delegates: Chief Guest RIDN C. Basker, Keynote Speaker PRIP Raja Saboo, DG David Hilton, PDG Parmod Vij, PDG Ranjit Bhatia and DGE Raman Aneja

Lakshya - District Training Assembly was held on 15th May 2016 at The Vivaan, GT Road, Karnal, hosted by Rotary Club Panipat Central. Rotary International Director Nominee (2017-19) C. Basker was the chief guest and Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo was the Keynote speaker. The DTA Chair PP Dhiraj Malik welcomed over 700 delegates of RI District 3080.

Counsellor PDG Parmod Vij in his opening remarks said the beginning of the Rotary year 2016-17 is on a good note and is expected to achieve the targets. District Governor David Hilton wished good luck and assured his full support to the team 2016-17. District Trainer PDG Ranjit Bhatia expressed his confidence that challenges would be accepted and there would be positive results. Thanking Rotary for what he is today, DGE Raman Aneja gave a video presentation about the RI Theme, 'Rotary Serving Humanity', showing an inspiring speech by RI President Elect John Germ. DRFC PDG Madhukar Malhotra and PDG Shaju Peter gave a presentation on Grant Seminar : TRF Level II. ZLC PDG

Ranjan Dhingra and PDG Manpreet Singh Gandhoke gave a presentation on Literacy Level II.

PRIP Raja Saboo in his keynote address extended a warm welcome to RIDN Basker and his wife Mala. A Rotarian since 1988 RIDN Baskar, is a member of Rotary Club of Karur, having 430 members is in RI District 3000 in Tamil Nadu, and is one of the largest clubs in India. He also shared his sweet memories of Karnal as it was here that he had his business exposure when he joined his father. In his address he acknowledged District 3080 as number one in India because PRIP Raja Saboo is the 'Pride of India'.

There were separate breakout sessions for Presidents and Secretaries Elect, Board of Directors, Club Trainers / Committee Chairs and a session for the spouses.

Vote of thanks was given by District Secretary Elect Vivek Garg. The District Training Assembly was a very meticulously organized function, which was a grand success. From Chandigarh Midtown we were 30 delegates who enjoyed this event.

Wedding bells

Our heartiest congratulations to R'ann Purnima & PP Rtn. Deepak Sood. Their daughter Shivani has recently been married to Apoorv.

Change of residential address

Rtn. Gobind Khandelua has since shifted to:
H. No. 835, Sector 8
Panchkula - 134108

Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Dr. Savita Gulati	May 20
R'ann Asha Gupta	May 22
R'ann Gurmeet Jauhar	May 22
R'ann Simranpreet Kaur Sawhney	May 25

Birthday of Rotarians

PP Rtn. R.K. Goyal	May 25
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Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Indu & PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra	May 21
R'ann Kiran & Rtn. Ashok Kumar Sharma	May 23



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