Rotary

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown

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R. I. President John F. Germ | District Governor Raman Aneja | President Amarjit Singh | Secretary Sundeep S. Sawhney | Editor Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXXI No. 20 Dated: November 15, 2016

PROGRAMME

Transforming Stress - Transforming Life

Chief Guest:

Deepak Gupta

Management Consultant

Date: **November 18, 2016 (Friday)** Time: **6.30 p.m.** Venue: **Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

Shah Hussain and his Times

In our regular meeting on November 11, 2016 President Rtn. Amarjit Singh welcomed the chief guest Prof. Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur, Professor of History, Department of Evening Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He was introduced by Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar. Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur is Professor of History at the Multi – Disciplinary Research Centre, Department of Evening Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh. His research pertains to Punjab history, culture, folklore and literature. He made several presentations on these subjects in national and international conferences, seminars, refresher courses and public forums. On March 21, 2016 he delivered Sardar Mahan Singh Dhesi Annual Lecture at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar on Forgotten Makers of Punjab: Discovering Indigenous Paradigm of History. He is the author of Society, Medieval Punjab Through Hir Waris (2009), and as a poet, he has versified in Punjabi the cultural mosaic of undivided Panjab in two collections, Surmedani (1999) and Charkha Bole Sain Sain (2007). He has edited (in collaboration with Surinder Singh) two books entitled Sufism in Punjab: Mystics, Literature and Shrines (2009) and Popular Literature and Pre-modern Societies in South Asia (2008).

Prof. Ishwar Dayal Gaur

Talking about Punjabi poet Shah Hussain, Prof. Ishar Dayal Gaur said, "As a historian I am supposed to tell you the history but I am deliberately telling you the story. I feel stories are more reliable than the craft of writing history by professional historians. Written evidence is the culture of the society where forgery and falsehood exist." Stories have different versions and this leads to one story.

Prof. Gaur translated the poems into English which he had recited in Punjabi. He spoke about the teachings of Guru Nanak, and also talked about the first Sufi Punjabi poet Baba Farid, Lord Krishna and Guru Arjan Dev. He also narrated the story of Heer-Ranja.

Shah Hussain (1538–1599) was a Punjabi Sufi poet who is regarded as a Sufi saint. He was the son of Sheikh Usman, and belonged to the Dhudhi clan of Rajputs. He was born in Lahore (India). Shah Hussain is also often known as Shah Hussain Faqir, meaning beggar.

In English Shah means king. Due to his humble Sufi personality, people called him the 'Beggar King', a person who was a king and a beggar at the same time.

Shah Hussain is a pioneer of the Kafi form of Punjabi poetry. His poetry consists entirely of short poems known as Kafis. A typical 'Hussain Kafi' contains some rhymed lines.

The symbols used in his Kafis are taken from the day to day life of a weaver. His poetry is set to music. His style is very simple and touches the heart.

The number of rhymed lines is usually between four and ten. Only occasionally is a longer form adopted. Hussain's Kafis are also composed for, and the singing of them have been based on the Punjabi folk music.

Many of his Kafis are part of the traditional Qawali repertoire. His poems have been performed as songs by Kaavish, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abida Parveen, Ghulam Ali, Hamid Ali Bela, Amjad Parvez, Junoon (band) and Noor Jehan, among others.

Welcome address by President Amarjit Singh

Rtn. Dr. Vishal Dua presents a memento to Prof. Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur. Looking on is President Amarjit Singh

Rtn. Prof. Rana Nayar Introduces the chief guest

President Amarjit Singh presents birthday gift to Rtn. Dev Jeet Singh, accompanied by R'ann Manpreet

Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur presents birthday gift to Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva. Looking on is President Amarjit Singh

Rtn. Dr. Vishal Dua Vote of thanks

Prof. Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur presents birthday gift to R'ann Indu Vohra. Looking on are PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra and President Amarjit Singh

Wedding anniversary gift for IPP Rtn. Kanan Diwan & PDG Rtn. Yoginder Diwan

Announcements by Rtn. Sundeep Sawhney

Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur presents punctuality award to PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta

Prof. Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur presents Scholarship cheque of Rs. 7500/- to Ms. Venus Madaan. The donors are Rtn. Arjan Singh and his friends; Mr. G.S. Aujla, Mr. G.S. Kang and Mr. Malvinder Singh (of USA)

PP Rtn. Er. R. K. Luther
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PE Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra with Rotaractors at Kartar Aasra Orphanage on Children's Day for Pottery event - making pots, diyas, cash box etc.

Polio awareness at Gurukul Global School. 1200 students participated

Intercity - Look Beyond

Our District honours PRIP Raja Saboo for his 25th anniversary of RI Presidentship

Our club was represented in the Intercity by (L-R:) PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, Rtn. Ashok Puri, PP Deepak Sood, Rtn. Dr. Sanjay Kalra, PE Dr. Rita Kalra, PDG Yoginder Diwan, IPP Kanan Diwan, President Amarjit Singh, R'ann Lovy Peter, R'ann Malabika Sengupta, PP Dr. Balram Gupta, PP Indrajeet Sengupta, PDG Shaju Peter, PP Gurdip S. Deep, R'ann Pushpa Jawa and PP Vinod Jawa

Intecity – Look Beyond was held on 13th November 2016 at Hotel MM Continental, Mullana, well organized by Rotary Yamuna Nagar, to celebrate the Rotary Foundation's 100 years of doing good in the world. Chief guest RRFC PDG Kamal Sanghvi of RI District 3250 gave an inspiring presentation on 'Joy of Giving' to make the world a better place. He also appreciated PRIP Raja Saboo's and Usha ji's great contribution to Rotary.

Host club President Hardeep Anand welcomed the delegates. DG Raman Aneja gave the facts regarding our District's contribution to TRF, and was confident of achieving this year's target of USD one million. He also highlighted the Polio Awareness Rally flagged off from Ambala on 24 October 2016 which is now going around our District. In his address, PRIP Raja Saboo said he is proud of being a Rotarian of District 3080. He also shared some of his interesting experiences as RI President.

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Asha Kiran launched by PRIP Raja Saboo

PRIP Raja Saboo launched the first Asha Kiran programme of RI District 3080, an initiative under Rotary India Literacy Mission, for 1000 school children at Snehalaya in collaboration with Vatsal Chaya on 11 November 2016.

Heartiest congratulations to District Governor Raman Aneja and District Literacy Chair PDG Manpreet Singh Gandhoke. Verification for Asha Kiran programme at Snehalaya was done by District Literacy Co-Chair Dr. Rita Kalra.

Also present on the occasion were District First Lady Meenu Aneja, AG Deepak Sood, AG Poonam Gandhoke and Mrs. Sangita Vardhan Chairperson of Vatsal Chaya Trust.

Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Neera Gupta	November 22
R'ann Sarita Vasudeva	November 24

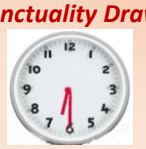
Birthday of Rotarians

Rtn. Mrs. Suman Gupta	November 20
Rtn. Nitin Kapur	November 21

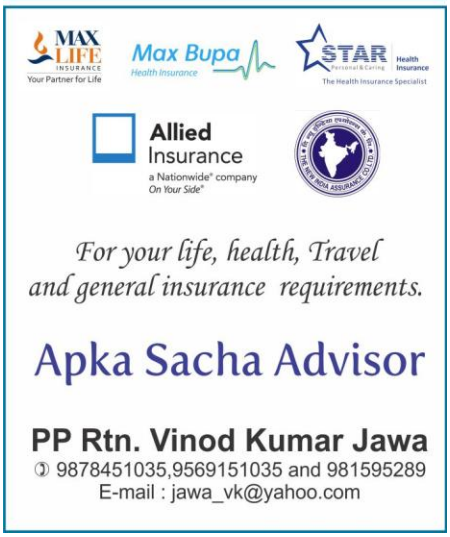
Wedding Anniversary

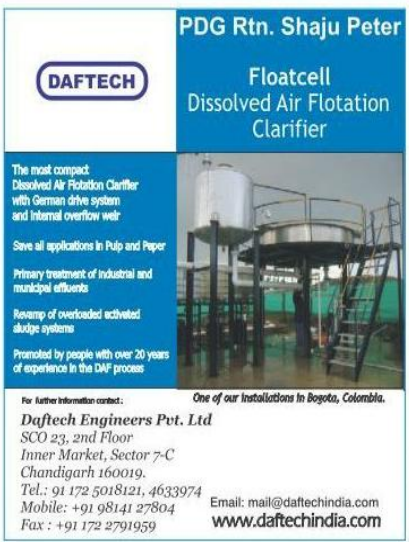
R'ann Kadam & Rtn. Jeeten Bhambri	November 18
R'ann Lalita & Rtn. D.R. Agarwal	November 19
R'ann Parul & Rtn. Salil Bali	November 23
R'ann Gulshan & Rtn. Surjit Kumar	November 24

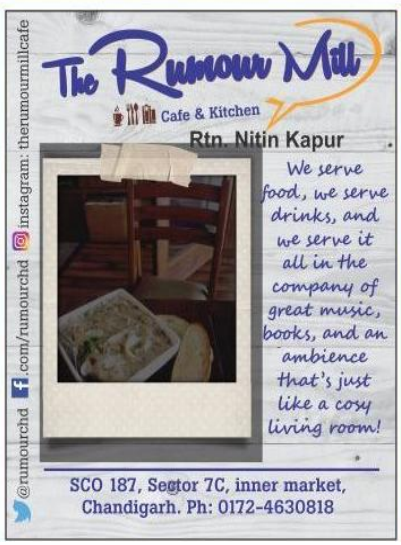
Punctuality Draw

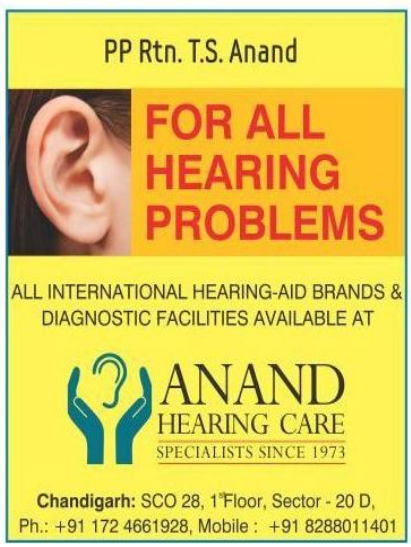


Won by PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta









All correspondence to the Editor: **PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra**
Consultant & Certified Clinical Partner, Otto Bock HealthCare India
Sr. Consultant - Artificial Limbs & Orthotics, Nevedac Prosthetic Clinic
MediRehab Systems, 1134 Sector 44-B, Chandigarh-160047
Email: drvjsvohra@gmail.com | Mob. 9814006829 | www.nevedac.com

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Satyadeep Offset Printers (P) Ltd
292, Industrail Area, Phase II
Chandigarh. Ph.: 4624942
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