



R.I. Dist. 3080

The Mid Towner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

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WILLIAM (BILL) BOYD

District Governor
DHIAN CHAND

President
DR. V.J.S. VOHRA

Secretary
R.K. LUTHER

Editor
ASHISH AHUJA

Programme



Please do attend

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 09, 2007

Volume : XXXI No. 32; January 07, 2007

Utility, Capability & Acceptability of Tally Accounting Software

Guest Speaker : Mr. Prosenjit Sengupta, Deputy General Manager,
Tally India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Please come to enjoy
the presentation

Time : 6.30 P.M.

TRENDS IN URBANIZATION



Mr. M. Ramshekar giving a Power Point Presentation



Mrs Ramshekar with Ann Indu Vohra and Ann Indu Luthra

As the speaker was to say at the end of his talk -gentlemen, if you got bored with the talk, the blame goes to Pallav, but if you liked it, well, thank you very much !

This, then, was how Er. M. Ramshekar, IAS, & currently the Transport Commissioner, Haryana, put across his informative talk on the urban scenario today. His talk covered a vast spectrum- as indeed any talk on this mega issue of what to do with the mega cities with all their mega problems.

Mega problems ? That would be the understatement of the century; giga-problems would be more apt a name ! Has anybody ever solved any big city problem ? You go & solve a small city problem - and the solution becomes the problem ! You provide better roads & transportation in a small city, & it starts to grow, because the city becomes a great place to live in. Provide great housing at a reasonable price, with all the basic amenities, & there are hordes of people who move in & the place is suddenly overcrowded. Provide electricity around the clock - that is enough reason for people to move

in from hundreds of miles away. Provide one little thing that is in short supply & the world will come to your doorsteps - in fact move right in !

Imagine the world a few centuries ago, and the painters who immortalized those serene pastoral scenes in their water colours. Well, the world has grown since then - and how ? The rate of urbanization is meteoric. What was originally basically an agrarian economy has changed drastically into an industrial one, with the resources of Planet Earth taking a hit. The world is expected to be more than 50% urbanized in next few years - with most of it happening in the developing countries. And another thing - over half of the city folk will be living in slums...

It's already happening, almost two out of every three people (that's 60%) in Mumbai are living in slums, or chawls, and another two lakh (that's almost half the population of the organized sectors of our city Chandigarh) are living, well, on the streets !

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Real estate values in Mumbai are about the highest on earth. And global real estate agents have moved in for the kill. We have developers from the world over. The proof of the killing - of the 34 Lamborghinis sold in the country, 30 of them have been bought by builders. These Italian thoroughbreds cost upwards of Rs. 200,00,000/- each, a hundred times more expensive than the most common set of wheels - the Maruti !

The world population at the beginning of the twentieth century was a measly two billion, but it took a mere century after that for the population to more than treble to six & a half billion ! In fact the growth of our towns & cities has been a staggering 800% over the last century ! An analogy of your home catering to 40 people instead of 5, should demonstrate the problem !

The developed world already has an urban population of more than 75%. But here in India, with more than one third of the population living below poverty level conditions, mostly in the villages, the migration to urban centers will & has become a tidal wave.

Take our national capital, New Delhi. What was a quaint little capital of the decadent Mughal Empire exactly a century & a half ago, has bloated into one huge conurbation of Sonapat, Hapur, Meerut, Bulandshahar, Ghaziabad, NOIDA, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Palwal, Gurgaon (the fastest growing city on Earth!), Dwarka, Bahadurgarh & a host of other small towns & villages that have well, merged into Delhi. And the problems ? Well, you name it, you got it - traffic, cars, pollution, disease, hospitals, water, air, electricity, time, peace, housing, friendship - all aspects of life get hit here. For the average Chandigarhian, Delhi is not *jannat*, but *jahannum*; never mind what was written in the books of yore !

I myself remember the time (just a couple of decades ago) when going to the Qutab Minar was deemed a picnic out of town. Now, you have a multi-lane bypass to Gurgaon that is mostly jammed with traffic, right next to the minar - anytime of the day or night !



Rtn. Brij Gulati presents a memento to Mr. M. Ramshekar



Rtn. Mrs. D.K. Singh gets her birthday gift from Mr. M. Ramshekar



Rtn. Vinod Sobti gets the Punctuality award

Why go so far ? Try getting out of Chandigarh. If you don't get stuck at the Zirakpur area, well, not to worry, there's another bottleneck just ahead at the bridge. The developers have bought up the earth all the way to Ambala & beyond. Try the road out to the west towards Kharar & beyond to Ludhiana & Ropar (oops, sorry, Roopnagar !). There isn't one square inch of land left for you to buy, or grow some vegetables.

Builders & developers have taken over. From Dubai there's Emaar, from Delhi, Parsvnath & a host of others. From Mumbai there's Raheja, plus from other cities in Punjab, Haryana & maybe even other parts of the country. Mohali has suddenly become the hot spot. PUDA has made an offshoot

GMADA, to handle the huge gold rush of developers moving in for the kill. Land prices have gone up from a few thousand a few years ago to over a billion per acre! So what? Emmar does fifty times as much of business per day - globally. Look at the stakes - everybody & his uncle wants to get on to the bandwagon.

What're you gonna do about it, dear pampered citizen?

 - PP Pallav Mukherjee

— ❁ —

" SWADESHO BHUWANTRAYAM "

DISTRICT CONFERENCE - 2007

Good News ! District Governor Rtn. Dhian Chand has extended the date of Advance Registration for "Swadesho Bhuvantrayam", the RI District Conference 2007 on Feb. 24 & 25, 2007, further from Jan. 31, 2007 to Feb. 10, 2007 to be eligible for the Conference Kit. DG Rtn. Dhian Chand has planned informative, educative & entertaining programs for Rotary delegates and their families. Members are requested to register immediately with our Office Secy. Mr. V.P. Sharma.

Pre-Conference Dinner will be held on the evening of 23rd February, 2007 at BHEL Lawns at a nominal charge of Rs.200/- per Rotarian & Rs.300/- per Rotarian Couple. Rotary Club of Haridwar is organizing *Maa Ganga Arti* at *Har Ki Pauri* on the evening of 23rd February, 2007.

Email from PDG JAGMOHAN KATAKIA

Baroda Feb. 1, 2007

Rtn. Dr.V.J.S.Vohra
President, RC Chandigarh MT.

Dear Rtn. Dr.Vohra Ji,

Just downloaded your club bulletin " The MidTowner " (No.26-30) thro' your club website which I found to be most interesting and informative with the report of the election of Board members of (07-08) under the Presidentship of Rtn Sandeep Sandhu, NID on 7th Jan and meeting for Bon Voyage to DGE Shaju Peter and felicitation to the Municipal Corporation Mayor, excellently compiled and edited by Rtn. Ashish Ahuja for which my compliments to him for an excellent job!

While going thro' the pages of your above bulletins, I cannot but appreciate the manner in which you have raised your club to new heights of success in all the avenues with following highlights in January 07 thro' your exemplary dedication, devotion, commitment and leadership qualities & I will be looking forward to your accomplishments thro' your bulletin from time to time.

- Blood donation camp on 7th Jan - collected 100 units.
- BonVoyage to DGE Shaju Peter on 14th Jan.

Congratulating once again for the above bulletins & looking forward to similar issues thro' your club website & with our best wishes to you for equal success in the coming months of your year (06-07) steering your club to newer heights in Rotary Service and fellowship & with warm personal regards to both of you from myself and Indumati, we remain,

Your Friends,

(JAGMOHAN KATAKIA)

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GOD IS RIGHT HERE

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with some packets of chips and cans of coke and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his coke can when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a coke. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted ! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy ?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what ? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen !"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy ?" He replied, "I ate chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally !

- Contributed by Rtn. J.S. Chopra

👍 CONGRATULATIONS HUNDRED PRECENTORS - JANUARY 2007 👍

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rtn. B.B. Bahl | 8. Rtn. Vinod Kumar Jawa | 15. DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter |
| 2. Rtn. J.S. Bawa | 9. PP Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon | 16. PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria |
| 3. PP Rtn. R.S. Chandgothia | 10. Rtn. Col. Dr. V.K. Kapoor | 17. PE Rtn. Sandeep Sandhu |
| 4. IPP Rtn. R.K. Goyal | 11. Secy. Rtn. Raj Kumar Luther | 18. PP Rtn. Harish Sethi |
| 5. Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati | 12. Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra | 19. Pres. Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra |
| 6. PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta | 13. Rtn. Maharaj Bakhsh Singh | |
| 7. Rtn. Munish Jauhar | 14. Rtn. Om Parkash | |



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon
Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulse

Feb. 09
Feb. 14



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS:

PP Dr. (Mrs.) Vanita & Dr. B.C. Gupta Feb. 09
R'ann Manju & Rtn. Jawahar Jain Feb. 09
R'ann Sarabjit & Rtn. J.S. Bawa Feb. 10
R'ann Urmil & Secy. Rtn. R.K. Luther Feb. 14



PUNCTUALITY DRAW :

Won by Rtn. Viond Sobti

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