



The Mid Towner

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Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown

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Editor
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Programme

FRIDAY - APRIL 13, 2007

Volume : XXXI No. 41; April 11, 2007

CLUB ASSEMBLY

Assistant Governor, Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon

Venue : Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Time : 7.00 P.M.



Please do attend

Open House Discussion on City Problems *Your Role in City Management*

It must've been a very wise man who spoke the great truth,
YOU GET THE GOVERNMENT YOU DESERVE !

After the very first general house meeting of the MCC, yours truly had some really unusual experiences, and as they show in the TV ads - *Har kaali tanki Sintex nahi hoti hai!*

All this due to bad management, corrupt & inefficient practices, lack of vision & commitment as a result of extreme ignorance, lack of discipline & time wasting procedures laid down basically to pander to the so-called 'leadership'.

I need not elaborate on this - the intelligent need only a hint !

The question is are we going to get ruled in this manner forever ? Are we to abdicate our responsibilities to some ignoramus who has made it to the house because of some reservation based on caste or sex or region & a few votes more than the other candidate ?

The main issue that was not discussed (that's too good a word !) but bitterly fought out in the house was the least important of the two - score agenda items for the last session - Paid Parking. Imagine two bunches of worthies fighting it out over whether to discontinue paid parking or not ! Not because it will help solve the pathetic parking lot management but to score brownie points amongst the masses. Imagine a whole day wasted shouting & yelling at each other at the top of one's voice to justify or oppose the issue based not on any diligent thought, but because of its inclusion in the party election manifesto ! This in spite of being reminded time & again that the matter is sub-judice & cannot be wished away.

One can imagine the shop-keepers & other visitors to the shopping areas jumping in glee over the abolishment of the

Rs. 2.50 or Rs. 5 parking fees for the day. Especially the ones who drive to the parking lot in their Mercedes Benzes or Toyotas & Hondas - absurd !

C'mon gentlemen, let's get real. One is missing the wood for the trees ! The real issues are swept under the carpet & everyone's happily blind. Or are they following the Mahatma's three-monkey model, *Gandhigiri*?!?

You think you'll get votes by talking economics, or industrial development, or saving the earth's limited resources, or even the need for controlling the burgeoning population growth ? Think you'll win a popularity contest pointing out the things going wrong, or more precisely, being planned wrong, executed wrongly, or financed wrongly ? In fact that's precisely the point !

The persons concerned haven't the least idea of 99% of the goings - on in the city systems. And what's more important, they don't even care ! My guess is that the pampered citizens are more interested in getting that precious & dwindling supply of power to run their A/C unit. An entrepreneur would be more interested in getting that 3 mega-watt connection for that mega-mall project he is setting up. Who is bothered about the rural areas or *jhuggis*, except the *Kundi Contractors* !

Nobody is interested in the details or economics of the projects planned & lined up by the *babus* in the corporation, be it the replacement of a boundary wall for a sewage plant (to presumably exhaust the annual funds allocated !) or making a concrete driveway along its perimeter (max. length which can be justified !) or even replacing a perfectly well egg-shaped sewer main with a rectangular cast-in-situ concrete box. Or how about buying an expensive piece of equipment,

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when there is another perfectly good one just lying around untouched & unused !
 The inane reasons justifying such projects don't even matter because nobody, repeat, nobody, seems even remotely interested.

They get away with the wildest schemes which, because of the lack of knowledge of the persons who matter, or their commitment, gets cleared in a jiffy (much to the glee of their perpetrators !) whereas something as inane as a review of the parking fees or the bus ticket by a few per cent or the appointment of a few sweepers takes up the entire attention of the house !

One of the first Chief Ministers of the state had put it rightly that the country is run by four types of people - the government clerk, the court munshi, the constable on the beat & the patwari ! Between the four of them, they can make or break the nation.

And the lives of everybody in it !

Okay, so what are we getting at ? Is our self-esteem so fragile that it will break if we look, see, hear & speak of what's happening around us ?

My guess is that fear is only in one's mind, which is why one bows down in fear even when the other is not even looking. We are ready to praise a person sky high when he is in power, & dump him when he's down. We're not consistent, not truthful, scared to call a spade a spade !

We need to change the attitude.

Let's start with simple problems, objectives & solutions list, which you can mail to me at mc.cdg@hotmail.com.

And see what a self-help Rotarian community can kick-start from today- the first-day in the rest of your life !

- PP Rtn. Ar. Pallav Mukherjee, Councillor, MCC

Regrets: The official camera had stopped working. The mobile one said, "Main Hoon Na" !



Ann Pritpal & Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati get their wedding anniversary gift from PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee

BLOCK THE DATES

April 21, 2007 (Saturday) - Official Visit of DG Dhian Chand
April 13, 2007 (Friday) - Club Assembly

The meeting of our club to be held on Friday, April 20th, has been re-scheduled to Saturday, April 21st, 2007 due to Official Visit of District Governor Rtn. Dhian Chand. On April 13, 2007 we shall have the Club Assembly at 7 pm at Hotel President. Assistant Governor Rtn. Capt. M.S. Kahlon would be present. All members are requested to attend.

All Directors and Committee Chairpersons are requested to be present in the Club Assembly on 13th April, with their plans & reports for the current Rotary year.

Detailed programme for DG's official visit shall appear in the next bulletin.

WCS LITERACY PROJECT

Block the Date: May 15, 2007

Chief Guest : RI President Elect Rtn. Wilfrid Wilkinson

Under this project, Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown in collaboration with Rotary Club of Gold Coast, New York, RI District 7250, is donating 6 to 8 sets of Text Books for Class 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th of Govt. Schools of UT, Chandigarh, under World Community Service Project of Rotary International. DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter & IPP Rtn. Er. R.K. Goyal initiated this US \$ 22000/- project in the last Rotary year and it got through during this year.

For the above project, we are holding a ceremonial function on 15th May, 2007 at 9 am at Bhawan Vidhyalaya, Sector 27, Chandigarh. RI President Elect Rtn. Wilfrid Wilkinson shall be the Chief Guest. All members of our club, with their spouses, are requested to be present in this function to meet the RI President Elect and also to ensure the grand success of this project.

This project shall be implemented through DPI (Schools), UT Chandigarh. It is proposed to donate these books through the school library to the needy students. At the end of the session, these books shall be returned to the school library, which shall then be issued to the next batch of needy students. This can be continued upto 3 batches. In addition to these books, some vocational 'courses' books and competition examination books will also be donated.

Distribution of the text books to the schools shall be done by the 2nd/3rd week of May 2007.

Poor Students Adopted for Free Education

On 7th April 2007, on behalf of Bharat Memorial Charitable Trust, it's Chairman PP Rtn. Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta adopted 30 poor students of Navjyoti Public School, Barotiwala and would provide them scholarship, besides free education. PP Kesho Gupta also offered free higher education for poor students in medical & technical fields. All expenses on these students shall be borne by the Bharat Trust. Rotarians who come across needy students, or have someone in mind, should contact PP Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta.

To encourage sportsman spirit among the youth, PP Dr. Kesho Ram Gupta organizes Bharat Kesho Gupta Memorial Cricket Tournament every year in the

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memory of his illustrious son. On 8th April 2007, the finals was played at Sector-16, Chandigarh cricket stadium. Godrej Cricket Club won the tournament by beating Dell XI by 29 runs.

Brief scores : Godrej Cricket Club - 183 for 7 in 35 overs

(Ajay Bhardwaj 67, Amrit Pal 29, Vaneet Chawla 27, Jai Kapil 25, Karan Kumar 3 for 43, Abhishek Prashar 2 for 34, Vikramjit Bhullar 2 for 33): Dell XI - 154 all out in 32.4 overs (Vikramjit Bhullar 34, Karan Kumar 27, Paritosh Dohhal 26, Ajay Bhardwaj 4 for 17, Vijay Pal 3 for 30, Amrit Pal 2 for 23).

HI DRAVID!

After the shameful defeat of Team India, the team members were not able to show their faces to people and they chose not to go in public and rather just pack up in hotel rooms.

Dravid could not resist for too long to be in the hotel room and still not be able to go out shopping. So he disguises himself as a Sardar and goes out. He meets a woman at the exit of the hotel who greets him "Hi Dravid!"

Surprised for having been caught, he comes back and makes himself up as a Muslim woman - in *Burkha*, etc. and goes out. Yet the same woman greets him "Hi Dravid!"

Dravid comes back determined to give it yet another try with the make up of a Hippie wig and shorts, etc. All in vain, the same lady catches him again and greets him "Hi Dravid!"

Bewildered by now, he could not help asking, "How did you recognise me?"

The lady replied - "I am Sachin!"



- Contributed by Rtn. J.S. Chopra



CONGRATULATIONS HUNDRED PRECENTORS - MARCH 2007



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rtn. B.B. Bahl | 5. PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta | 9. DGE Rtn. Shaju Peter |
| 2. PP Rtn. Col. A.J.S. Gill | 6. Rtn. Mrs. Saroj Jhawar | 10. PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria |
| 3. IPP Rtn. R.K. Goyal | 7. Rtn. Raj Kumar Luther | 11. Pres. Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra |
| 4. Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati | 8. Rtn. Maharaj Bakhsh Singh | |

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Rtn. R.P.S. Gulati
Rtn. Maharaj Bakhsh Singh
Rtn. Raj Kumar Luther
Rtn. Brij Mohan Gulati



April 13
April 14
April 15
April 18



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS:

R'ann Gurmeet & Rtn. Jagpreet Chadha April 18

PUNCTUALITY DRAW :
Won by PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria

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