

The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

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THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Volume XXXXIII No. 43 Dated: April 23, 2019

PROGRAMME

Club Assembly

In the gracious presence of

Assistant Governor (Zone 3) PP Rtn Ritu Singal

1. Brief Report by all Directors
2. Report of Reconciliation Committee by Chair PP Rtn TS Anand

Next meeting is the

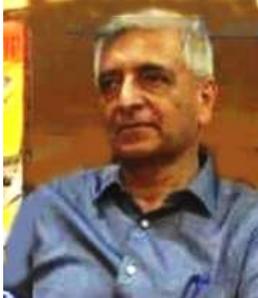
Official visit of

District Governor Rtn Praveen Goyal
on May 01, 2019 (Wednesday)

Venue: Hotel Shivalikview, Sector 17, Chandigarh
Date: April 26, 2019 (Friday) - Time: 6.30 pm

Farmer Stress in India

In our weekly meeting on April 19, 2019 PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee was the keynote speaker who was welcomed along with other Rotarians and Anns by President Rtn Ashok Puri. There was no need of a formal introduction as Pallav is a popular Rotarian in our Club and is also well known in our District 3080.



PP Pallav Mukherjee

As the Chairman of our Weekly Programs, PP Pallav Mukherjee wanted a distinguished food and trade policy analyst, award winning journalist, writer and researcher Mr Devinder Sharma to speak on the Farmer Stress in India. He was trained as an agricultural scientists and quit journalism to write on food, trade policies and how unfairly independent India continues to treat its farming community.

As Mr Devinder Sharma was not available for the meeting on 19/4, Pallav discussed the subject on his behalf. An income support of Rs 6,000 per year to small farmers owning less than 5 acres, as announced by the finance minister, will not take care of the farm crisis. For more than four decades farm incomes have remained more or less static. Several studies have shown that the real farm incomes have been on the decline. Real farm income had grown by less than half a percent every year.

Following demonetisation, with farm prices slumping, we have seen pathetic reports of farmers throwing tomato, potato, onion and garlic on the streets. Irate farmers had re-ploughed standing crops of vegetables and reports of farmers endlessly waiting at the market to dispose off their farm produce, had appeared frequently. Farmers' anger was clearly visible, and following the electoral debacle in the Hindi heartland, the government brought in direct income support to farmers.

Direct income support is a significant requirement. Even in US and Europe, farmers have been given direct income support for long. The time has come in India for the government to provide farmers with an assured or a guaranteed monthly income. After all, we cannot leave farmers to face the tyranny of the markets.



Welcome address by
President Ashok Puri



National Anthem led by First Lady
R'ann Sudha Puri and R'ann Sunita

Farmers are being ruthlessly exploited. A study says that in the past two decades farmers have incurred a loss of Rs 45 lakh crore on account of low prices. Farm loan waiver is the immediate relief farmers need. After all, if the farmers have been denied their legitimate income, and have survived on taking credit and repay that credit draw more credit from another source, why shouldn't the nation stand with them and see that they are relieved of their economic burden once for all.

Let's give an opportunity to farmers to get rid of the entire economic baggage they carry. Waiving farm loans is not an act of generosity or is an attempt at being politically correctness, what we need to understand is how and why farmers have been deliberately kept impoverished all these years.

There are no practical ideas and thinking at the policy planning level, which is the cause of the farm crisis and has multiplied to such a severity. To provide Rs 500 per month to a small farmer and then think it will do the miracle is a clear-cut reflection on the disconnect that prevails between policy planning and the ground realities. In spite of the dire crisis with heavy losses and living in hunger themselves, the farmers still produce food for the country.

Where the money will come from when huge corporate bad loans are written off. Between April 2014 and April 2018, Rs 3.17 lakh crore of corporate loans have been struck down, and no questions over fiscal imbalance caused or where from will the money come have ever been raised.

Why is that while both the corporate and the farmers draw loans from the same banks, corporate get bulk of the loans written off by banks, whereas the poor farmer's assets are seized and auctioned even for small outstanding amounts of Rs 1 lakh or less. Farmers go to jail for default of just one repayment. In Punjab, thousands of farmers have received legal notices from banks for not being able to pay back in time.

Hundreds of them are in jail. This doesn't happen with Corporate sector. Various committees have looked into farmer's crisis. Agriculture needs a holistic set of reforms, including credit policy, market reforms, trade policy etc., because agriculture too is an economic activity. In fact, at a time of jobless growth, agriculture being the largest employer alone has the potential to ensure economic security.



Rotarians Arjan Singh, Vinod Sobti, Shashikant Adokar and Bhavmit Chandoak having lively discussion with keynote speaker PP Pallav Mukherjee



Meeting called to order by PP Rtn Amarjit Singh



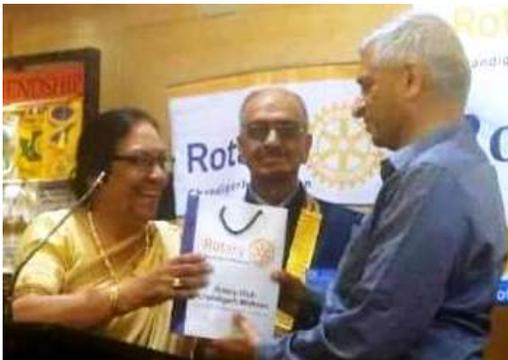
Talk on inspiration by R'ann Dipali Adokar



Vote of thanks by PP Rtn Kanan Diwan



President Ashok Puri and Secretary Salil Chopra present punctuality award to PP Pallav Mukherjee



PP Kanan Diwan presents a token of affection to PP Pallav Mukherjee



PP Pallav Mukherjee presents birthday gift to PP Kanan Diwan. Looking on are President Ashok Puri and Secretary Rtn Salil Chopra

Global Grant of Rs 8.34 lakh for our Signature Project Government Elementary School, Peermushalla (Zirakpur)



New kitchen and mid-day meal hall



2 additional class rooms

President Ashok Puri informed in our weekly meeting that Rs 8,34,000/- Global Grant – Wash & Happy Schools has been approved by TRF for the GES, Peermushalla project.

19 April 2019
A roundup of Rotary news
Council elevates Rotaract



Rotaract welcomed to RI

Rotaract clubs will now be considered a part of Rotary International, as opposed to a program of RI, following a vote by the Council.

On the morning of its last day, the Council approved 381-134 a measure that acknowledges Rotaract clubs in the RI Constitution and Bylaws and elevates them as an important member of the Rotary family. Rotaract clubs will continue to have their own standard constitution but will receive greater support from RI.

"We need to be an inspiration to our young partners, so they will continue doing the great service that they do," said RI President Barry Rassin, who presented the measure. "This sends a strong message that they are truly our partners in service."

Rassin stressed that many of the other aspects of Rotaract clubs will remain the same. Rotary clubs will still sponsor Rotaract clubs, and will still support them. Rotaractors will also not be considered Rotarians, and will retain their own unique club experience. The measure simply broadens the definition of membership in RI to include Rotaract clubs.

The benefit to Rotary is the ability to learn more about Rotaractors and improve the support and resources it offers to help Rotaract grow. As Rotaractors become our partners in service, we will be able to better track their impact and expand our reach, supporters said.

Govt Elementary School



On 20.04.2019 at GES, Peermuchalla, children were made aware of importance of time, cultural values and hygiene by PP Kanan Diwan and Rtn Salil Chopra. Chocolates were distributed to children

Dance Festival – Nritya Arpan at Tagore Theatre on 19.04.2019



Ananya and Anushka granddaughters of PP Dr VJS Vohra performing Kathak dance at Tagore Theatre Chandigarh



Ananya and Anushka are students of dance teacher Mrs Jatinder Arora Nayyar, whose mentors are Guru Sh Deepak Aurora and Dr Shubhra Aurora of Jaipur Gharana



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**President Rtn Ashok Puri's
Thought of the Week**

Do not stress yourself too much, because no matter how bad the situation is, it will change.

Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Deep & Rtn Maj Gen AS Kahlon April 30
Rtn Shuchi & Mr Ankur Thakur April 30

Punctuality Award

Won by PP Rtn Pallav Mukherjee

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand



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