

The Mid Towner



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Editor
PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Volume XXXIV No. 21 November 18, 2009

Stroke: What Can I Do?

Chief Guest: Dr. Monica Saini, Head, Stroke Clinic
Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula

Friday, November 20, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

Media, Credibility Deficit

Chief Guest of the meeting on November 13, 2009 was Professor Dr. Sanjay Wadwalkar, Department of Mass Communication, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He was introduced by PP Dr. Balram Gupta. Prof. Wadwalkar is the senior most faculty member and has been Chairman of the Department for nine years.



Professor Sanjay Wadwalkar says, "News is dead!"

Professor Sanjay Wadwalkar said he would like to share his thoughts and tensions about the media. He began his talk by narrating the story of Professor Matuklal Chowdhary of Patna University, who in 2006 had an affair with his student, Julie which did not concern anyone except the three persons, that is, his wife, the student Julie and of course, the professor. This became a matter of big news for many days and was a sort of national news in the electronic and print media. Finally the professor divorced his wife and married Julie.

Dr. Wadwalkar recalled another incident which received high media coverage, as a result of fake sting operation by a TV channel, regarding Ms. Uma Khurana, a teacher of Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Delhi, accused of running a prostitution racket. Immediately after the channel aired the video footage of the sting, Uma was arrested on charges of immoral trafficking, was badly abused and assaulted

by a mob. She was dismissed from service and disowned by her family. She kept pleading her innocence, and suffered mental agony, humiliation and harassment. However, trial court discharged her from the case after Delhi Police gave her a clean chit, when later, the sting operation was found to be a hoax as the girl shown as a student and a prostitution racket victim in the sting operation, turned out to be an aspiring journalist. Uma became a chronic patient of depression to the extent, she may not regain sanity.

Talking about leading newspapers in the country, Prof. Wadwalkar disclosed, "News is not selected on basis of merits. It depends on space available or under pressure of advertisers and marketing men." Serious news is ignored. News about Princess Diana's death completely overshadowed the demise of Mother Teresa. He said, "All leading newspapers of India collectively, absolutely ignored Mother Teresa." He added, "Baba Amte had to compete with Miss World. The prize won by both was of nearly same amount. Miss World appeared in the upper half of front pages of all the newspapers, whereas for Baba Amte space was available in the middle pages."

It is unfortunate that news is now measured with money. Prof. Wadwalkar said, "In recent elections new kind of journalism has been practiced." Under this coverage package journalism, low end and high end coverage packages were introduced. Low end package would be Rs. 16 to 20 lakh and high end would be beyond Rs. 30 lakh. These packages ensured that a candidate would be given adequate positive coverage on any day and any page he desires.



Ann Lalita & Rtn. Daulat Ram Agarwal get anniv gift from Dr. Sanjay Wadwalkar



B'day boy Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva, accompanied by Ann Shradha gets gift from Chief Guest



PP Ajit Gulati gets Punctuality award from Dr. Wadwalkar

Dr. Wadwalkar revealed, "A leading newspaper in the country, with largest circulation in the world, took a policy decision to sell the editorial space. Lalu Prasad Yadav benefited from it the most, not only as a Railway minister but also to bail himself from the multiple crises he had gone through."

Dr. Wadwalkar said, "There are different rates for profile, interviews, list of achievements and thrashing of the rival would cost the maximum.

Newspapers across Andhra Pradesh netted between 350 to 400 crores through editorial coverage sold to candidates during 2009 elections." He further revealed, "For televisions there are different rates for special sockets, live coverage, and tracking the candidate's activities."

He added, "Trail by media seems to be a minor joke. Media is itself on trail. News has died. There is no credibility left. No good positive stories can be carried

Induction of New Members in Chandigarh Midtown



New Rtn. Dr. Anureet Kaur being inducted by Rtn. Suraj Handa



New Rtn. S.P. Babuta being inducted by PP Rtn. B.L. Ramsisaria

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on Saturdays and Sundays because there are too many advertisements. For last 10 years Editors have been reading books on advertising and marketing." Advertisements have dominated over the news because of stiff competition from television, which became the role model for print media! Newspapers now add more and more colour with crispy headlines. Prof. Wadwalkar concluded that there is no news.

News is dead! Most of the newspapers employ young journalists, in the age group of 20-22, who do not know how to write but they have misplaced confidence. Instead of reporting, they give their judgment. President Gurdip S. Deep, while thanking the professor said, "The way he spoke, stimulated us."

Blood Donation Camp at Dev Samaj College

Blood Donation Camp was organized last week by Rotaract Club Chandigarh Midtown. The other Rotaract Club sponsored by Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, that is, Rotaract Club of Dev Samaj College for Women, an all girls Rotaract Club, in co-ordination with GMCH-32 Blood Bank, organized Blood Donation camp at Dev Samaj College on 12 Nov. 2009. Excelling in academics and extra curricular activities, Rotaracts of Dev Samaj College have the future in their hands. We were also joined by Inner Wheel Chandigarh Midtown. Moving together makes a very happy moment!

blood were donated by Rotaractors and students of Dev Samaj College, who were fully motivated by their Principal, Dr. Meera Modi and the faculty members, some of whom also donated blood.

The camp was inaugurated by Mayor of Chandigarh, Mrs Kamlesh, who also graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. There was a good response as 70 units of

AG Rtn. Charanjit Singh, President Rtn. Gurdip S. Deep, PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta, Secy. Rtn. Ritu Singhal and Director (Community Servies) Rtn. Deepak Sood were present to support and appreciate the work done by the Rotractors. Office Secy. V.P. Sharma was there with the camera to click the event! Inner Wheel Chandigarh Midtown President Asha Gupta, accompanied by IW Secretary/PP Jitendar Rai and PP Uma Gupta presented gifts to the blood donors.



Blood Donation Camp being inaugurated by Mrs Kamlesh, Mayor. Principal Dr. Meera Modi is on her left.



From right: Mayor Mrs Kamlesh, Principal Dr. Meera Modi, IW President Asha Gupta, President Rtn. Gurdip Deep, PP Rtn. Dr. Vanita Gupta, Rtn. Deepak Sood & AG Rtn. Charanjit Singh are



seen motivating the students to donate blood and appreciate the efforts of members of Rotaract Club of Dev Samaj College

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D.o.B: 13.08.1958

Wedding: November 01

Member from: October 2009

Spouse: Aruna

Vocation: IT Professional

D.o.B: August 08

Children: Ashima (D) Ayush (S)

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Neena & Rtn. P.K Verma



November 22

R'ann Gulshan & Rtn. Surjit Kumar

November 24

Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. Ajit S. Gulati

Bring Gifts in the Meeting on 20 Nov. 09 for Wedding of Night School Teacher's Children



Ann Sudha & Rtn. A.K. Puri handing over gifts to IPP Saroj Jhawar and Secy Rtn. Ritu Singal for marriage of son & daughter of our Sarangpur Night School Teacher, Indira Sharma, scheduled for 27 & 29 Nov. 2009. Ann Bir & PP Ajit Gulati have also given gifts. Rotarians are requested to bring more gifts in the meeting on 20/11 to support and give our good wishes to Indira, who has been serving our Night School devotedly

Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Santosh K. Khaitan



November 22



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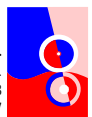
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