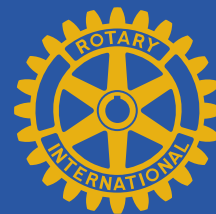


The Midtowner



Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

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Club No. 15228
R.I. District 3080

2014-15

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Editor
Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Volume XXXIX No. 48 Dated: May 26, 2015

PROGRAMME

Food Safety

Chief Guest:

Dr. Savita Sharma

Lecturer, BRS Dental College, Sultanpur

Friday, May 29, 2015

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Climate Change

In our regular meeting on May 22, 2015 we had an informative presentation on Climate Change by Dr. Sumit Arora, PhD Convener and Founding Member APSWDP, Chandigarh. He was introduced by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee. Working in Development sector since 2004, Dr. Sumit



Dr. Sumit Arora

has been able to achieve excellence in the field of HIV/AIDS, Drug Addiction, Gender Sex and Sexuality, Adolescent and Youth programs, Climate Change, Urbanization and Environmental issues etc. he was involved as freelance development practitioner with various Governmental, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations as expert in conducting advocacy, drafting policy plans, mobilizing core community, behavior change communication through counseling skills, leading monitoring and evaluation through strategic planning. Awarded with Doctorate in Philosophy (Sociology), he is also engaged in various academic activities like conducting research, writing proposals and academic papers/articles (with few already published in reputed journals). Recently, he was shortlisted to participate in Climate Reality Leadership Corps under the chairmanship Mr. Al Gore, former U.S. Vice President and Founder of The Climate Reality Project. This training program provided an insight concerning the magnitude of environmental problems cause by several human actions, the debt of which will be paid by our future generations. It also gave a glance of problems all around the globe due to change in climatic conditions. His future endeavors encompass sustainable development through various capacity building programs and generating mass awareness. Presently he is working as Program Officer in Department of AIDS Control, Government of India.

Dr. Sumit Arora briefly talked about the alarming scenario of HIV/AIDS in India, particularly in Punjab. He had a very elaborate presentation on Climate Change but due to limitation of time, he had to cut it short. He showed some pictures of earth. He explained about Solar radiation in the form of light waves which passes through the atmosphere. Most of this radiation is absorbed by the earth and warms it. Some energy is radiated back into space by the earth in the

form of infra red waves. He also explained the fundamental causes of the greenhouse effect. He also explained the global warming concept through his very informative and colourful slides. A graphical view was shown of decade wise global temperature for the period 1881 to 2010 which has risen from 13.7°C to nearly 14.5°C.

Sumit pointed out that 2014 was the 38th consecutive year with a global temperature above the 20th century average. January 2015 was the 359th consecutive month with a global temperature above the 20th century average. Northern India endured its longest heat wave ever in June 2014. At least 79 people in Delhi died from the heat. In the southeast, 169 people died of heat exposure in Andhra Pradesh. 90% of the extra heat trapped by manmade global warming pollution goes into the ocean. With each additional 1°C of temperature, the atmosphere's capacity to hold water vapor increases by 7%. As temperatures increase, the oceans evaporate more moisture into the sky. So the downpours get bigger.

Through his presentation he also discussed ill effects of the extreme rainfall events in various parts of India. As global temperatures continue to increase, the earth's water cycle intensifies even more, causing bigger, harder downpours, and simultaneously results in longer and deeper droughts. The same extra heat that evaporates water from the ocean pulls moisture even more quickly from the soil. In 2013 Maharashtra state suffered its worst drought in more than four decades. On October 13, 2014 U.S. Department of Defense stated, "Rising global temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, climbing sea levels and more extreme weather events will intensify the challenges of global instability, hunger, poverty and conflict." This will lead to disruptions in food supply, water, global health and infrastructure.

Unseasonal rains and hail devastated crops and affected 30,000 villages across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab. Climate change is also leading to an increase in plant pests and diseases. India faces a severe groundwater crisis, and 16.6 million acres of land have been lost to salinization. 40 – 50% of supplied water in India is lost through leaking pipes.

On May 21, 2014 Pope Francis stated, "If we destroy creation, creation will destroy us. Never forget this." Do not cut the trees, because they remove pollution.

Another matter of great concern pointed out in the presentation is that between 2010 and 2013 the Antarctic ice sheet lost ice at the rate of 160 billion metric tons per year, which is twice as much as during the 2005 – 2010 survey.

Delhi is now the world's most polluted major city where more than 40 people die every day from respiratory illnesses. 13 of the 20 worst-



President R.T.P.S. Tulsi presents a cheque for Rs. 1,60,100/- to PDG Shaju Peter on account of donations collected by our club for Nepal Relief Fund



PP Rtn. Dr. Balram K. Gupta presents a memento to Dr. Sumit Arora. Looking on are President R.T.P.S. Tulsi and Secretary Salil Bali



Dr. Sumit Arora presents birthday gift to PP Rtn. R.K. Goyal, who is accompanied by his wife R'ann Kund Bala Goyal



Rurhir S/o Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra gets PHF recognition from PDG Shaju Peter. Her family is now 100% PHF



Dr. Sumit Arora presents birthday gift to R'ann Simranpreet K. Sawhney, accompanied by her husband Rtn. Sundeep Sawhney



Wedding anniversary gift for R'ann Kiran & Rtn. Ashok Kumar Sharma

Rtn. Vinod Sobti

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Dr. Sumit Arora presents punctuality award to Rtn. Rajinder Rai

polluted cities worldwide are in India. More people die of asthma in India than anywhere else in the world. By 2035, global energy demand will increase by a third. 90% of that new demand will come from developing nations. India's coal demand doubled between 2002 and 2012. Nearly 60% of India's power generation capacity is coal-fired.

Urgent action is needed to address climate change. Sumit sounded optimistic when he said, "We have the solutions at hand." India plans to quintuple its wind energy generation in the next 5 years.

India's wind capacity is projected to increase by 90 GW by 2040. Between 2000 and 2013, India added 19 GW of wind—the fourth highest globally after the EU, China and the U.S. Solar parity has been reached in India. There is a rapid adoption of a new technology.

According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "We need a saffron

revolution that focuses on renewable energy sources such as solar energy, to meet India's growing energy demand." He added, "We look upon solar as having the potential to completely transform the way we look at the energy space." The Indian states of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are all investing in large-scale solar energy initiatives.

Sumit pointed out some more encouraging facts. Enough solar energy reaches earth every hour to meet the power needs of the entire world for a full year. India receives 300 days of sun per year, more than any other country in the G20. India will save \$42 billion each year with enhanced energy efficiency. Punjab has adopted net metering, allowing households to earn credit for solar power they produce. Recently Delhi has instituted net metering, allowing individuals to sell solar electricity to the grid.

On behalf of our club PP Rtn. Dr. Balam K. Gupta thanked Dr. Sumit Arora for an eye opening wonderful presentation and said, "What a presentation.... how alarming! We have to pool our minds so that we can balance the damage that is taking place in this particular process, and each one of us should contribute in dealing with such a situation."



Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali always doing fine balancing act for our club

Towards Total Literacy - Rtn. Salil Chopra..... 50 not out.....!!!



Director Youth Service Rtn. Salil Chopra presents his team of Rotaractors and Interactors in our meeting on May 22, 2015



Rtn. Salil Chopra takes 3 classes in 3 hours at Government Senior Secondary School in Maulijagran

Rtn. Salil Chopra said, "As Director Youth Service it gives me immense pleasure to inform that the team of Interactors, Rotaractors and Rotarians have touched a magical figure of 50 courses conducted during the current Rotary year in various Schools of Tricity on different topics."

On 22/5 Rtn. Salil Chopra and Interactors Sachin, Mohit and Nandan conducted courses under the hot tin roof tops at Govt. Middle

School in Indira Colony Chandigarh, addressing a gathering of 190 attentive students. The topics were on Rotary and moral values. Sweets and chocolates were distributed to the children.

On 23/5 an impressive interactive session was conducted with 192 children of Govt. Senior Secondary School in Maulijagran on Rotary and moral values. Rtn. Ashok Puri taught them breathing exercises, chanting OM. Sweets and chocolates were distributed to the children. The last leg would complete on 30/5 to accomplish our target of 52.

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Cleanliness drive in Chandigarh

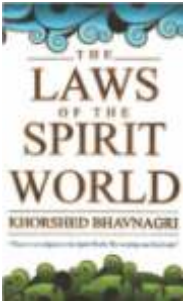
Rotaractors of Post Graduate Govt. College Sector 46, Chandigarh and Interactors of Manimajara participated in the cleanliness drive in Sector 46 market of Chandigarh and made the program a great success as the Secretary and members of market committee also joined us. Rtn. Amarjit Singh, Rtn. Ashok Puri, his wife R'ann Sudha and our Secretary Rtn. Salil Bali were deeply involved in ensuring that due awareness is created among the shopkeepers and the public. In spite of his sore throat Rtn. Salil Chopra gave running commentary and chanted slogans to promote the campaign on cleanliness. They all picked up garbage in the market and inspired the college going children to join them to carry out this unique cleanliness drive taken up by our club. This program is likely to be extended in other sectors of Chandigarh, like 17 and 22.



Cleanliness drive in Sector 46 market

Amazing Achievement of two Blind Sisters

Book suggested
in the meeting on
15th May 2015



Aasma and Halima with their family

training in Panchkula starting from 4th June 2015.

With dignity and pride they would be a great financial help to their father who sells sugar cane juice at Manimajra. Our appreciations to Institute of Blind, Sector 26, Chandigarh for helping them initially to build a strong foundation.

Rtn. Ashok Puri said, "We both are very satisfied and proud to get an opportunity to help Aasma to complete her studies and start earning her livelihood. It is also a great satisfaction for our club for providing scholarship to Halima to enable her to pursue her studies and earn a livelihood." Good luck and God bless them and their family.

Two blind sisters, Aasma and Halima, both brilliant in study as well as sports, from very poor family having meager source of income are studying in M.A. (Punjabi) final year and M.A. (Sociology - first year) respectively in Panjab University, Chandigarh. Aasma was supported by Rtn. Ashok Puri and his wife R'ann Sudha Puri since last five years. Halima got financial assistance from our club to complete her studies from this year. They had been passing their examinations with distinction, with more than 70% marks.

Both the sisters have now qualified in a competitive examination of State Bank of India, Chandigarh and both have been offered appointment as Assistant Grade Clerk with salary of Rs. 25000 p.m., after completion of their one month

Speedy Recovery

Our President Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsi is not well. We wish our dynamic leader sound health and happiness

Acknowledgement with thanks

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Mrs. Sudha Bhagat (USA)

- Through Rtn. Salil Bali

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Birthday of Spouses

R'ann Uneza Khandelia

May 30

R'ann Rekha Azad

June 01

R'ann Rashi Khosla

June 02

R'ann Sudha Puri

June 03



Wedding Anniversary

R'ann Rekha & PP Rtn. Anil K. Mehan

May 29

R'ann Indu & Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra

May 30



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