



# ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha Secretary: Preeti Khemka

## Issue No. 1375

Date: 5 Aswin 2077 / 21 September 2020

**Today's Programme:** Briefing on RNLM/TEACH programme by PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya

**Forthcoming Programme:**

28 Sept. – Classification talk of Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht  
5 Oct. – Business Meeting

**Congratulatory Events**

**Birthdays:** Nil

**Wedding anniversaries:**

Rtn. Mukti and Praveena Shrestha – 19 Sept.

## Minutes of Meeting No. 1723

Date: 29 Bhadra 2077 / 14 September 2020

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual RCP meeting No. 1723 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar, AG Rtn. Dinesh R. Manandhar, RC Butwal South Charter President Rtn. R.C. Acharya, Rotaract Club of Patan President Kritika Sharma, PP Rtr. Peshal Bhattarai, and Rtr. Sushant Basnet.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution and to the Operational Fund marked as 'OF':
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang (NRs. 1,000) and Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya (NRs. 1,000) - for having Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar as guest speaker and to welcome Rtn. R.C. Acharya from RC Butwal South.
  - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa (NRs. 500), Rtn. Kiran Thapa (NRs. 500), Rtn. Matsyendra L. and Chandralekha Kayastha (NRs. 1,000), Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal (NRs. 200), - for having Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar as guest speaker.
  - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for successful arrival of his son from Washington D.C. and for having Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar as the guest speaker (NRs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for today's good attendance (NRs. 500 to OF).
5. Rotary News/Information:
  - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following:
    - Receipt of RISAO newsletter just received and being shared.
    - Update on Polio received indicating only Afghanistan and Pakistan as remaining countries worldwide with Polio.
    - Briefed on a very good District workshop hosted by RC Butwal for RNLM region V on 'Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Its Practice in Life Ahead' " with excellent speakers.
  - Rtns. Jeevan K. Shrestha, Mahendra B. Thapa and Bijaya Mallapaty successfully obtained the tax clearance certificates from the Revenue Department and Lalitpur Municipality for the renewal of the RCP's club registration for this year. The final step with the CDO's office is being done.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – RC Taipei, Taiwan; Chartered: 1948; & Members: 98. District: 3481, Clubs: 88, & Members: 2711. Rtn. Rajbhandary also gave a short brief on this home club of RI President Gary Huang, which is the first Rotary Club in Taiwan.
7. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: total contributions of NRs. 5,700 (NRs. 5,200 to the sunshine fund and NRs. 500 to the operational fund of the RCP), attendance: 1 guest speaker, 2 Rotarians, 3 Rotaracts and 30 members.

### Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal

- Q. In June 2020, the Rotary International Board decided to change the name of the Rotary International magazine 'The Rotarian'. What will be the new name? A. 'Rotary' effective with the January 2021 issue or earlier.
- Q. Home club of Fiscal Agent PDG Rtn. Yogendra M. Pradhan A. RC Kathmandu Mid-Town
- Q. Rotary's monthly theme for the month of September A. Basic Education and Literacy Month

## **Summary of talk programme by former Ex. Chairman/GM of Nepal Airlines, Mr. Sugat Ratna Kansakar**

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed the guest speaker Mr. Sugat Ratna Kansakar and Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa introduced him. Mr. Kansakar graduated from Pune, India as an engineer in electronics and telecommunication. Mr. Kansakar is known to be a man of action with a professional experience of 34 years in telecommunication industry and 6 years in airline industry. He has been the CEO of Nepal Telecom (2004-2008) and CEO of Nepal Airlines (2009-2011 and 2015-2019), has travelled widely for training, seminars, meetings, and study visits, and written extensively on management, leadership, and politics. Mr. Kansakar has been a motivational speaker with expertise in modern leadership/management techniques, risk-taking and fast decision-making.

Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar started his talk programme saying that he is also known by a nick name given to him as 'Mr Widebody' for buying 2 wide body aircrafts during his tenure with Nepal Airlines. While there was controversy on this purchase, he justified that the procurement was done very professionally and to meet the absolute need of Nepal Airlines. A global tender was called in which, ten companies from six countries participated. The best and lowest offer of 24 Billion Rupees was selected following all required reviews and clearances of technical/finance committees and a parliamentary committee. Afterwards a media report accused of a misappropriation of 6 Billion Rupees in the procurement, which he believes is childlike, but it still became an issue of investigation. The investigation mentioned inaccuracy in the accounting, and it is continuing.

Mr. Kansakar explained why the procurement of the widebody aircrafts were necessitated for the capacity increase of Nepal Airlines so that tourist destinations in the West could be covered for the promotion of tourism. This would expand Nepal Airlines beyond manpower destinations. However, after he left Nepal Airlines, he believed that there were deliberate attempts to make this venture a failure in different pretexts by the new management.

Mr Kansakar mentioned that Nepal Airlines was doing very well before 2046 B.S. with foreign currency earnings only second to the manpower sector. He believes that Nepal Airlines can still do good business and compete with bigger international airlines. As the national carrier supports tourism and other businesses related to tourism, government support of it is mandatory. Investment in the procurement of aircrafts should be considered as investment in national infrastructure such as roads. Nepal Airlines had received an international award for being among top five on 'Ground Handling'.

He lamented that due to the lack of aircrafts, 97% of Nepali market were enjoyed by international airlines. Different lobbies were at work for not promoting the purchase of aircrafts.

Amongst the things that need to be done, he prioritised: reduction of flight fares as Kathmandu has become the most expensive destination of Asia, flights to attract religious tourists such as from Sri Lanka and Myanmar, work on at least a 10% growth rate. In conclusion, he was proud to have been successful in procuring four aircrafts during his tenure after 21 years of non-procurement. He also got Nepal's laws changed to allow borrowing by Nepal Airlines specially for the procurement of planes.

In the Q/A session, members commented on Nepal Airlines' lack of priority given to domestic sector, ignoring contribution of GSAs to expand the tourism reaching one million tourists, lack of homework before the purchase of new planes so that it did not have to stay in hanger for a long time etc.

On behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay gave a 'vote of thanks' to Mr. Sugat R. Kansakar for his presentation and response to questions raised. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang concluded the session with his own appreciation and thanks to Mr. Kansakar.

## **Rotary Information: Rotary and Ashoka renew partnership after pilot success**

*(Source: my.rotary.org)*

Following a successful pilot year, Rotary and Ashoka announced a three-year partnership renewal to promote opportunities for networking and collaboration between Rotary and Ashoka to help address key social and economic challenges.

Critical at this time is collaboration in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rotary and Ashoka networks are using empathy, creativity, and flexibility to help people affected by coronavirus, keep connections strong across communities, and prepare for a post-pandemic world.

In addition to Ashoka, other Rotary service and project partners include Habitat for Humanity, Mediators Beyond Borders International, Peace Corps, and ShelterBox.

*(RCP supported - KOSHISH national mental health self-help organisation Executive Director Mr. Matrika Devkota is an Ashoka Fellow)*