

ललित धारा

RI District 3292**Club No. 23126****Chartered: 29 August 1985****President: Mahendra Thapa Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha****Issue No. 1445****Date: 9 Falgun 2078 / 21 February 2022****Today's Programme****Rotary's 117th Anniversary Day – 23 Feb.**

Regular weekly meeting with 'Rotary Anniversary Celebration and Rotary Questions/Answers with discussion'

Congratulatory Events**Birthdays:-**

Rtns. Nirmal K. Pradhanang & Suraj Pradhan – 18 Feb.
Rtn. Lila B. Baniya – 22 Feb.

Wedding Anniversaries:

Rtn. Rabendra R. & Chandra Lekha Pandey – 18 Feb.
Rtn. Yagya B. and Mary Shrestha – 19 Feb.

Minutes of Meeting No. 1792**Date: 2 Falgun 2078 / 14 February 2022**

1. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa called the regular weekly meeting number 1792 to order virtually by Zoom with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Mr. Pranaya Rana from 'The Record' on independent journalism, and Mr. Manish Kayastha (son of Rtns. Matsyendra L. and Chandralekha Kayastha).
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Contributions/pledges for 'Happy News':
 - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Padam L. Maharjan – for 'Happy Birthday', Valentine's Day, and for attending Rotary Club of New York and Rotary Club of Downtown, Boston meetings (NRs. 1,300).
 - Rtn. Jamuna K. Tamrakar – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 1,000).
 - PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. and Nani Shova Sakya, and Rtn. Kamal B. & Sulochana Nyachhyon – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. and Shanta Shrestha – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Lila Baniya – for 'Happy Landing' from the USA with son who has returned for his job there (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa – for having Mr. Pranaya Rana as the speaker of today (NRs. 500).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - On behalf of Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey, President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa and Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty informed that The Rose International Fund for Children (TRIFC), NGO, USA, will match 1 to1 contributions made to the KPAD Fund up to US \$20,000. TRIFC is one of the three partners with Ability Development Society of Nepal (ADSoN) and the RCP working together on the project 'Empowering People with Disabilities in Nepal by Teaching Organic Vegetable and Poultry Farming Skills'.
 - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal briefed on the progress with the preparations for the 8th of March International Women's Day 'Cycle Rally' with all the partners under the coordination of Lalitpur Metropolis.

He also briefed on the status of closure of Anandakuti School Reconstruction Project. As implementation has been completed, final closure actions including a video preparation will be completed with all the project partners shortly. To close the project account with the RCP, it is planned to transfer the 5% retention funds to our partner AKAA, to be paid later to the Contractor.
 - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary informed that, as discussed during the last meeting, he has requested the District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC) to share the information on Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers in Nepal with all the clubs, which the DRFC has agreed to do.
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa - Rotary Club of Banjul, Gambia; Chartered: 1979 and Members: 33. District: 9100, Clubs: 107, and Members: 2984. She also provided brief highlights of the country.
7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Joint Secretary Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht announced: contribution pledges of NRs. 5,800 to sunshine fund of the RCP, and the meeting attendance of 2 guests, 25 members, and 4 make-ups.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka

- Q:** Who proposed the idea to establish the Rotary Foundation of RI? **A:** Arch. C. Klumph in 1917
- Q:** Who said: "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves". **A:** Paul Harris
- Q:** Who is the first recipient of 'Service above Self' Award in Nepal? **A:** Rtn. Gopal Raj Rajbhandari, RC Kathmandu

Talk Programme by Mr. Pranaya Rana from 'The Record' on Independent Journalism

Mr. Manish Kayastha introduced Mr. Pranaya Rana, editor-in-chief of The Record, a digital English publication based in Kathmandu. Mr. Rana has over a decade's experience in Nepali journalism. He has previously worked for The Kathmandu Post and Nepali Times. Academically, Mr. Rana holds a Master of Science degree in Urban Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Writing. Rana is also a fiction writer, and his collection of short stories, 'City of Dreams: Stories', was published in 2015.

Mr. Pranaya Rana introduced the subject highlighting the lack of trusted journalism in Nepal dominated by mainstream profit-making media, which has low trust among the Nepalese population particularly with the youth. With the help of a power point presentation, Mr. Rana presented the vision of 'The Record' to publish trusted journalism while staying true to the values of editorial independence, accountability to its readers, and innovation.

He provided a history of The Record that was founded in 2014 and run entirely on volunteer basis till 2017. Since then, it has been funded by crowdfunding, grants, and with members voluntary contributions from 2020. The Record uses innovations in technology with new approaches to journalism and produces long reads newsletter, podcasts, videos, and translations – all in English (See: www.recordnepal.com).

Elaborating on the problems with Nepali media, Mr. Rana mentioned profit making business model, inaccessible journalism (relying too much on unnamed sources), and lack of transparency/accountability as the main causes. As an alternative media, The Record tries to produce in-depth, fact-checked, and contextual journalism to build trust with the public, and go beyond the headlines with long reads. He gave several examples of the write-ups produced by The Record, which have been very popular.

The Record is inspired by The Correspondent (Netherlands), The Guardian (UK), The Wire (India) and Rappler (Philippines). He also highlighted the challenges faced in reporting as an 'outsider' when there is lack of trust in digital media, and competition faced from legacy media with large budgets/organization.

Talking about its readers, Mr. Rana listed English reading Nepalese of all professions, NRNs and the international community with an interest in Nepal. Over 160 readers have made voluntary contributions anywhere from NRs. 500 to NRs. 100,000 to keep The Record going. He urged all the Rotary family to join The Record's readers group and subscribe to its weekly newsletter, which is released every Friday. Currently, The Record needs to make extra efforts to do fund-raising and marketing and expand its teams and collaborate with other like-minded organizations.

Following a Q/A session, on behalf of the RCP family, Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Mr. Pranaya Rana for an excellent presentation and the endeavours of The Record for a trustworthy journalism as an alternate media in Nepal. President Rtn. Mahendra B. Thapa concluded the session with his own words of thanks to Mr. Rana.

If you want more from The Record, consider becoming a member. The link with their promotional information is provided below.

<https://www.recordnepal.com/member/new>

"By becoming a member, you're joining The Record community, a group of like-minded readers who believe that an independent press is an essential part of a free society.

Your support helps us continue our reporting, and it keeps the publication free for all. By helping to cover the cost, you're enabling us to publish stories that you won't find anywhere else, stories that help us better understand each other, our past, and our future" – The Record.