

**Issue No. 1564**

**Date: 31 Ashar 2081 / 15 July 2024**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">2<sup>nd</sup> Club Assembly</p> <p><b><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u></b> 22 July – Zoom meeting</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Birthdays:</u></b> Nil <b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b> Nil</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1909**

**Date: 24 Ashar 2081 / 8 July 2024**

1. President Rtn. Preeti Khemka called the RCP's Meeting No. 1909 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Rtn. Randeep Sahani and spouse Mrs. Jyothi Sahani from Rotary Club of Bangaluru, India; Engineer Sanjeev S. Kathayal; Ullens School scholarship recipient PEEF students Swostika B.K. from Tri Padma School with her mother Soroshoti B.K., and Yubesh Kharel from Mahendra Adarsha School with his mother Sarada Kharel; and President Rtr. Aman B. Shrestha and Rtr. Prabin Maharjan of Rotaract Club of Patan.
3. Rtn. Lalit Shahani introduced himself, his spouse, and the Rotary Club of Bangaluru. They were very pleased with their business cum tourism trip to Nepal and appreciated this opportunity to join the RCP's meeting. Rtn. Randeep Shahani and President Rtn. Preeti Khemka exchanged club flags.
4. The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
5. Happy News Contributions:
  - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi – for 'Happy Birthday' (Rs.500).
  - Rtns. Matsyendra L. & Chandralekha Kayastha – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Som & Sajani Paneru – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary', and for arranging full scholarships for two PEEF supported students at Ullens School (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam – for his 1<sup>st</sup> regular weekly meeting of the RCP as its Secretary (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha – for the recent RHD trip to Hetauda (Rs. 500). He also shared the flag of RC Makawanpur together with a muffler with Rotary logo received from them.
  - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for the 2 District Awards received by the RCP, and for the 'Token of Appreciation' received by him from the District (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi – for the recent RHD trip to Hetauda (Rs. 500). He also briefed on the team's (with ten members from the RCP and Nepal Heart Foundation) RHD screening done at 5 schools with 2,500 screening including 250 Echocardiograms with 22 positive cases identified and treated.
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang (Rs. 500), Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa (Rs. 500), Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht (Rs. 500), - for the start of full scholarships arranged by Ullens President Rtn. Som Paneru for two of the RCP's PEEF students at grades 11 and 12 at Ullens School.
  - Rtn. Piyush B. Bajracharya – for learning Spanish with his 6-year-old granddaughter (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Lochan Gyawali – for receiving Dept. of Food Certificate for new food processing business (Rs. 300).
  - Rtn. Bishnu P. Sigdel – for welcoming RY 2024-25 President and the scholarships at Ullens (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka (Rs.500), and Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty (Rs. 1,000), – for the RHD trip to Hetauda and scholarship at Ullens mentioned above (Rs.500).
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka – for the above and for receiving the two District Awards (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Sunil Gupta – for his presentation today on developmental disorders in children (Rs. 500).
6. Other Contributions:
  - PEEF Coordinator of this year Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht provided the details on the arrangement of the free scholarships to the RCP's PEEF students. President of Ullens School Rtn. Som Paneru confirmed the grant of two full scholarships including free transport to two students – Ms. Swostika B.K. from Tri Padma School and Mr. Yubesh Kharel from Mahendra Adarsha School. Upon request, he also informed the estimated monetary value of each scholarship per year at Rs. 520,000, thus a total of 2,080,000 for two years.

- Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty briefed on the receipt of Rs. 440,000 from United Ajod Insurance Ltd. to the RCP's PEEF programme funds. These funds were raised by Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha through his nephew Mr. Rabi B. Shrestha from the 'CSR' funds of the insurance company. Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha has been the initiator to raise highest amount of contributions to the RCP's PEEF programme.

7. Rotary Information:

- Rtns. Khadak S. Bisht informed about the RCP's tree plantation programme on 27 July 2024 and requested all to participate at Bungamati, which is the same venue as last year.
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty briefed on the completion of PEEF distribution together with Rtns. Bishwa B. Sharma and Gabriele Mallapaty at Harisiddhi school. However, due to back-up exams being given by several SEE students, distribution to grade 11 will be delayed.
  - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty briefed on the progress of Lalitdhara Souvenir publication, which is going smoothly, and requested for more sponsorships for advertisements and timely submission of articles.
8. Salutation: By Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha – RC Karachi Green City, Sindh, Pakistan; Chartered: 2011; & Members:61. District: 3271, Clubs: 78, & Members: 1418.
9. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary, Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam announced: happy news contribution of NRs.9,300 (50% of NRs.4,650 each to the RCP's operational and sunshine funds), NRs. 6,100 for attendance to the operational fund, and the meeting attendance of 7 guests, 2 Rotaracts, 22 members, and 10 make-ups.

**Summary of talk programme by Rtn. Sunil Gupta on developmental disorder in children like cerebral palsy, down syndrome and autism**

Rtn. Sunil Gupta made a power-point presentation on developmental disorders in children. Defining developmental disorder to a condition that affects the normal growth and development of a child, he dwelt on the neurological disorders (cerebral palsy & autism) and intellectual disability, i.e. down syndrome. He explained the causes and symptoms for each of these disorders and how they are diagnosed. While these disorders often can't be prevented, the risks can be reduced. There is also a wide range of physical and developmental therapies that help the affected children to reach their full potential. These include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, self-care skills, specialised education services, social and recreation activities, and programmes that offer job training.

While specific national data is not available, Rtn. Gupta mentioned that globally cerebral palsy impacts 1 in 450 children, autism affects 1 in 100 children, and down syndrome occurs in 1 in 700 births.

Recognising the need to empathise with the affected children, he founded Aasha Kiran Kendra in Birgunj to support them comprehensively and advocate their cause on a fully voluntary basis. Rtn. Gupta explained the structure of Asha Kiran Kendra and what it does as a dedicated day care centre, which was established in 2015 in Birgunj. The mission of the centre is to empower and enrich lives of the affected children, and the centre currently takes care of some 30 to 35 children. By taking care of these affected children, the centre also allows parents valuable free time to relax and attend to their other responsibilities. The centre is voluntarily funded by its members and sponsors, and one may become a life member with a contribution of Rs. 25,000.

Rtn. Gupta elaborated on the activities currently provided by the centre as lunch, celebration of festivals, indoor games, outdoor sports, health camps and extra activities. The future vision is to have a well-equipped centre and support its replication in major cities of Nepal with all the facilities for special need children including technical and medical personnel.

On behalf of the RCP, President Rtn. Preeti Khemka thanked Rtn. Sunil Gupta for this noble endeavour and an excellent talk programme given today. She encouraged him to share about the centre more widely including within Rotary.

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