

**Issue No. 1592**

**Date: 21 Magh 2081 / 3 February 2025**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme:</u></b> Business Meeting on Zoom</p> <p><b><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u></b> 10 Feb. – Regular Weekly Meeting followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Fellowship of the RCP Family</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Birthdays:</u></b> Nil</p> <p><b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b> Nil</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1936**

**Date: 14 Magh 2081 / 27 January 2025**

1. President Rtn. Preeti Khemka called the RCP's Meeting No. 1936 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speakers Prof. Dr. Badri Prasad Badhu and Dr. Manita Pyakurel
3. The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
4. Happy News Contribution pledges:
  - Rtn. Gopal P. Dawadi – for 'Happy Birthday' (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma and Aruna Uprety – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Lochan & Sangita Gyawali – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Lila B. Baniya – for 'Happy Landing' from the USA (Rs. 500).
  - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty – for 'Happy Landing' from Germany, and for the successful reconstruction surgery of Kalika Shahi's from Jajarkot supported by them at Kirtipur hospital (Rs. 2,000).
  - Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi – for his talk programme at RC Balaju, which was very much appreciated (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka – for 'Happy Landing' for Mumbai after the successful surgery of mother-in-law (Rs. 1,000).
  - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for earlier ha.ba. (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Mukti N. Shrestha – for today's talk programme (Rs. 500).
5. Other Contributions:
  - The following additional members pledged to contribute to support WASH facilities with urinals, and floor carpet in the two rural schools near Birgunj:  
  
Rtns. Preeti and Shiv P. Khemka – Rs. 15,000, and Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – Rs. 10,000.  
  
With the above, the **Total pledged amount has reached Rs. 212,000** against a target of Rs. 250,000. The deadline for pledges was set for 31 January 2025 so that implementation actions could start in consultation with Rtn. Sunil Gupta. Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam and Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi are visiting the area on 6 February and 8 March 2025 respectively who could review the plans with the schools.
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty informed of the annual contribution of Rs. 21,350 (Equivalent of Euro 150) to the PEEF Trust Fund by Ms. Manuela Muecke, sister of Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty.
6. Rotary Information:
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht informed that the RCP's contribution of Rs. 100,000 to Mahendra Adarsha School for WASH support is being transferred thus completing this project.
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty confirmed the handover of the scholarship support for graduate studies under the RCP's GSSA programme to Ms. Samjhana Tamang of Lele school who could not join the RCP's KEEA/GSSA ceremony earlier. In view of the transport difficulty for the student to come to Yala Maya Kendra late, the handing over was done by sponsor Rtn. Prakash R. Regmi at his clinic on 27 January 2025.

- Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam briefed on the plans to establish the 'Student Quality Circle (SQC)' groups to engage the students of grades 7, 8 & 9 together with two teachers in each group in the RCP's four adopted schools.
  - President Rtn. Preeti Khemka requested members to confirm their participation in the forthcoming District Conference during 21-23 March 2025 by 30 January 2025 to meet the District's deadline of 31 January to avail the special participation rates. On behalf of all the confirmed participants, the RCP will be transferring the registration fee of Rs. 10,000 per member to the District and the members should therefore transfer funds to the RCP account accordingly.
7. Before the adjournment of the meeting, Secretary Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam announced: happy news contributions of Rs. 6,500 to the sunshine funds, and Rs. 4,650 for attendance, including one for mobile ring, to the operational funds of the RCP, the meeting attendance of 2 guests, 23 members & 9 make-ups.

### **Summary of Talk programme on 'Vision and Hearing Screening of Infants' by Dr. Manita Pyakurel and Prof. Dr. Badri Prasad Badhu**

On behalf of the RCP, President Rtn. Preeti Khemka welcomed the guest speakers and Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam introduced them.

Prof. Dr. Badri Prasad Badhu is the Hospital Director at B.P. Eye Foundation/CHEERS and a former Professor of Ophthalmology at BPKIHS, Dharan. He holds MBBS and MD degrees and has served as Past President of the Nepal Ophthalmic Society and the RC of Dharan. A recipient of multiple Paul Harris Fellow honours, Dr. Badhu is recognized for his decades of contributions to eye care in Nepal.

Dr. Manita Pyakurel is a public health professional with a master's and PhD in public health. She has a decade of research experience in non-communicable diseases (NCDs). She is currently working as an Academic and Research Department lead at B.P. Eye Foundation, Bhaktapur. She is also a Secretary of the SEAR NCD Alliance and a life member of the Nepal NCD Alliance (NNCDA). Dr. Manita is currently engaged in grant writing, project implementation, and academic activities.

Dr. Pyakurel made a comprehensive power point supported presentation on 'Vision and Hearing Screening of Infants at Immunization Centres to Ensure Optimal Sensory Health' and Prof. Badhu gave an overview of the B.P. Eye Foundation - Hospital for Children Eye ENT and Rehabilitation Service (CHEERS).

Dr. Pyakurel informed that a large number of children aged 0-15 years in Nepal are blind or severely visually impaired from eye conditions, of which about half are preventable or treatable. She described the causes, and need for eye screening at an early stage. She also briefed on the 'Ear and Hearing Health' that is prevalent in 1 to 1.5 per 1,000 live births in Nepal and advocated for early screening critical for speech and language development during the initial six months after birth.

Both the speakers realised the need for Nepal's health system to integrate eye & ear health and its screening into its national immunization programme, which is supported by organizations like UNICEF and WHO. They are planning to develop a sustainable screening module, which is cost effective, ensures a broader community participation and can be easily replicated. They would be looking for partners like Rotary in these efforts.

During the Questions/Answers session, several RCP members commented and gave suggestions, which were appreciated by the guest speakers. On behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to the distinguished guests before the President concluded the session with her own words of thanks.



**May the Laugh Bug Bite You** 😊😊😊😊😊

*A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."*