

**Issue No. 1647**

**Date: 18 Falgun 2082 / 2 March 2026**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme:</u></b></p> <p>Business Meeting on Zoom</p> <p><b><u>Forthcoming Programme:</u></b></p> <p>9 Mar. – Regular Weekly Meeting and the RCP Members' 'Second Birthday Fellowship' celebration</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Birthdays:</u></b></p> <p>Rtn. Sunil Gupta – 1 Mar.</p> <p><b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b></p> <p>Rtn. Pushkar M. &amp; Rita Shakya–27 Feb. Rtn. Krishna &amp; Kamal Hachhethu-1Mar. Rtn. Bijay &amp; Rajani Bajracharya – 2 Mar. Rtn. Shiva &amp; Tika Pradhan – 3 Mar. Rtn. Nirmal &amp; Bijaya Pradhanang – 5 Mar.</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1990**

**Date: 11 Falgun 2082 / 23 February 2026**

- President Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht called the RCP's Meeting No. 1990, coinciding with the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Rotary, with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
- The last meeting minutes of the RCP were reviewed and adopted.
- Happy News Contributions:
  - Rtn. Lila B. Baniya – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba.).
  - Rtn. Piyush B. & Ramita Bajracharya – for 'Happy Wedding Anniversary' (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for 'Happy Birthday ha.ba.' and for 'Happy Landing from Vietnam (Rs. 1,500).
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka - for the above (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for being honoured with 'Doshalla' and 'Token of Appreciation' as a senior Rotarian (4<sup>th</sup> most senior by age in Rotary District 3292) in a function at the District Rotary Office (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – for participating in three different programmes of Rotary today-details below (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – for 'Happy Landing' from the USA (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for Rotary's 121<sup>st</sup> birthday (Rs. 500).
  - Rtn. Ganga R. Gautam – for being a resource person in a TU training of 70 professors (Rs. 500).
- Other Contributions:
  - Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma contributed Rs. 1,000 to the RCP Members' Fellowship Fund for his successful tour of various parts of Nepal recently.
  - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht informed of the balance of about Rs. 4,000 collected from members for a gift to the RCP Members' Fellowship Fund.
- Rotary Information:
  - President Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht:
    - Informed about the successful 'Post-Valentine's Special' event hosted by The Academy of Culinary Arts & Management (ACA), Lagankhel, Lalitpur. On this occasion, the RCP pledged to support the efforts of Ms. Kalpana Maharjan, Mountaineer, Journalist and Social Service Activist, to rescue 5 trafficked Nepalese children from India for their rehabilitation in Nepal. This required Rs. 85,175, which was pledged by the RCP. Of the pledge of Rs. 85,175, the following pledges from members have been made so far: Rtns. Bijaya & Gabriele Mallapaty (Rs. 15,175), Kedar B. Shrestha (Rs. 5,000), Nirmal K. Pradhanang (Rs. 5,000), Piyush B. Bajracharya (Rs. 5,000), Jamuna K. Tamrakar (Rs. 5,000), Ramesh L. Maskay (Rs. 5,000), Prakash R. Regmi (Rs. 5,000), Khadak & Maheswari Bisht Rawal (Rs. 5,000), Shiv P. and Preeti Khemka (Rs. 5,000), Bishwa B. Sharma (Rs. 5,000), and Ganga R. Gautam (Rs. 3,000). Total pledged: Rs. 63,175.
    - Members may still contribute to reach Rs. 85,175. Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey has pledged to cover any balance.

- Briefed on the District even on Rotary's 121<sup>st</sup> birthday participated by Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha and himself on World Rotary Day - 23 February. Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha added that he was among the six senior Rotarians (by age) honoured with 'Doshalla'. He is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> most senior Rotarian in Nepal. A 'Token of Appreciation' was given to him in recognition of his remarkable Rotary journey of unwavering dedication, commitment and outstanding contribution to the ideals of 'Service above Self'.
  - Confirmed the RCP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Fellowship celebration on Monday, 9 March 2026.
  - Informed about the annual 'Blood Donation' programme by the Rotaract Club of Patan sponsored by the RCP with contributions from Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa on Saturday, 28 February 2026. The Lalitpur Metropolis also needs to approve it.
  - Informed about the programme of awareness against child marriage and human trafficking organised in collaboration with Shanti Education Initiative Nepal and the RCP. It was conducted by Ms. Kalpana Maharjan at Siddhi Mangal School, Lubhu, the RCP's adopted PEEF support school for grade 10 students there.
  - Shared the milestone events of the Rotary since its establishment in 1905 globally, and in Nepal since the establishment of the separate Rotary District here in 2008.
  - Briefed on the 'Inter-college Speech Competition' hosted by RC Bagmati Kathmandu and co-hosted by RC Patan together with other Rotary Clubs at Southwestern State College, Basundhara on 23 February 2026.
6. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma announced: happy news contributions of Rs. 5,000 to the sunshine fund and Rs. 3,200 for attendance including Rotary pin-control, to the operational fund of the RCP, and the meeting attendance of 16 members & 10 make-ups.

### **Summary of the talk programme by Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha on his 'Diplomatic Journey' (Part.1)**

President Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht welcomed Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha, senior most RCP member (by age), on the occasion of Rotary's 121<sup>st</sup> Birthday to give a summary of his diplomatic journey during his career.

Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha gave a summary of the memorable moments of his diplomatic career from early 1960s to early 1970s. The years after that would be covered in Part. 2 of his 'Diplomatic Journey'. The summary of his memorable achievements with interesting informal anecdotes were not only praiseworthy but also historic. He captured the bureaucracy as well as the socio-cultural realities of the times. A few examples are captured below.

On 17 September 1964, Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha joined the diplomatic service of the government of Nepal coincidentally starting the Jaycees in Nepal as its founder on the same date. He worked for a couple of tours of duty in the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that time, there were only six embassies of Nepal abroad. He took his first diplomatic tour to Germany opening the mission there with the Nepalese ambassador on 1 July 1965 as a Second Secretary. In those days, this was a big news with even his travel announced on the national radio. During his tenure in Bonn, he had the opportunity to meet with the 1<sup>st</sup> Chancellor of West Germany Konrad Adenauer. He also gave several anecdotes of privileged access including for the funeral of Adenauer when he passed away. Other interesting anecdotes were - the visit of the then Prince Himalaya Shumsher to Germany in 1967, visit of German Chancellor Luebke to Nepal via Singapore on a Boing 707 plane, which till then was not permitted to fly to Nepal by Boing.

In 1969, he returned to the Protocol Department as its Deputy Head. In Nepal, the foreign diplomatic assignments, usually are of 4 years, followed by 4 years of posting in Nepal before another diplomatic assignment. He narrated interesting diplomatic manoeuvres made during that time, including for the visit of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The then Yugoslavian Prime Minister visited Nepal with a very short notice during his scheduled visit to Bangladesh, and how he managed the logistics of sending a plane to Bangladesh on time. Also noteworthy was his involvement with the visit of North Korean Vice President to Nepal.

Rtn. Shrestha joined the Nepalese delegation to the United Nations in the USA as 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary in 1973. Noteworthy achievements were Nepal's involvement in international affairs e.g. against apartheid, in policy making on the 'Law of the Sea', and in 1974 a proposal to send a Nepalese Brigade to Golan Heights as UN Peacekeeping Mission, which was possible as Nepal was the first South Asian country to establish bilateral ties with Israel and also had good relations with Palestine. One of the proud moments of Rtn. Shrestha was to push for 'equal pay for equal job' for Peacekeeping forces from all countries, which became a reality accepted by the United Nations.