Rotary District 3292

Rotary Club of Patan
100% PHF Club
ललित धारा

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

RI District 3292 | Club No. 23126 | Chartered: 29 August 1985

Issue No. 1681 | **Date: 16 Kartik 2083 / 2 November 2026**

Today's Programme:	***Congratulatory Events***
Business Meeting ***9 November 2026*** – No meeting due to 'Tihar' holidays.	***Birthdays:*** Rtn. Preeti Khemka – 3 Nov. Rtn. Santa K. Shrestha – 5 Nov. ***Wedding Anniversaries:*** Nil

Minutes of Meeting No.2023 — *Date: 9 Kartik 2083 / 26 October 2026*

1. President Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka called the meeting no. 2023 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.

2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Mr. Krishna Gautam and spouse Mrs. Parbati Gautam; Rtn. Bishnu Sigdel's son Dr. Abindra Sigdel; PP Rtr. Aman Shrestha and Rtr. Dinesh Lamichane from the Rotaract Club of Patan; and Honorary RCP Rtn. Ewerhard Engels.

   Dr. Abindra Sigdel introduced himself as a vascular surgeon practicing at UofL, USA. He was very pleased to be joining the RCP's weekly meeting and looked forward to possible further collaboration in the future.

3. The last weekly meeting minutes issue number 1680 of the RCP were reviewed and approved.

4. Happy News Contributions:

   - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty – for today's talk programme (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Ewerhard Engels – for the opportunity to learn Nepal in the RCP meetings (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Bishnu Sigdel – for the visit of his son Dr. Abindra Sigdel (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – for the above – Dr. Sigdel is also his son-in-law (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – for participating in the Rotary's cycle rally function and to welcome Dr. Sigdel (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Pushkar M. Shakya – for 'Happy Landing' from the USA (Rs, 1,000).
   - Rtn. Sandhya Regmi – for having today's guest speaker - Polio survivor Mr. Krishna Gautam (Rs. 500).
   - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for the 'Good Morning Tea Party' of the Rotaract Club of Patan, Rotary's cycle rally, having Dr. Abindra Sigdel as a guest, and today's Polio presentation (Rs. 2,000).

5. Other Contributions:

   - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty announced a 100% matching of new contributions by the RCP members to TRF Polio Funds until Friday, 30 October 2026. Today, she matched a total of US $200 and Rs. 10,000 as per pledges/contributions mentioned below:

     Dr. Abindra Sigdel - Rs. 10,000 (Paid), Pledges: Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal – US $50, Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – US $100, Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – US $25 (Transfer of his earlier pledge for EREY to Polio Plus), and Rtn. Shikha Prasai - $25.

6. Rotary Information:

   - Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal briefed on the 'Good Morning Tea Party' of the Rotaract Club of Patan, which was participated by nine RCP members. It was held at Blue Bird School in Kumaripati with many sports/entertainment activities and sale stalls. President Khemka added that this has been done annually by the Rotaract Club since 2004/2005.

   - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht briefed the cycle rally organised by the District from Bhaktapur to Patan on 24 October 2026 – Polio Day, with the participants of over 500 cyclists moving through seven heritage places. From the RCP, five members participated of which three joined the race of 40/50 kms.

- President Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka informed that all the recent activities participated by the RCP members have been put on the RCP website and encouraged all to view them.

- Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa presented a 'Token of Appreciation' from Ama Ghar to Rtn. Sandhya Regmi for her contributions.

7. Before the adjournment of the meeting by the President, Secretary Rtn. Krishna Hachhethu announced happy news contributions of Rs. 6,000 to the Sunshine Fund and Rs. 3,700 to the Operational Fund of the RCP, and the attendance 3 guests, 2 Rotaracts, 18 members, and 13 make-ups.

Summary of presentation on Polio by Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty and sharing of experience by Polio Survivor guest speaker Mr. Krishna Gautam

Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty made a presentation with the support of power point explaining why we celebrate the 'World Polio Day' and the key role of Rotary in the global effort to eradicate Polio.

Honouring Scientific Milestones: The presentation highlights key figures such as Dorothy Horstmann, who discovered Viremia or transmission through the blood stream in 1952, Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the Inactivated Polio Vaccine in 1955 (24 October is his birth anniversary), Dr. Albert Sabin, developer of the Oral Polio Vaccine in 1956, and Dr. Mikhail Chumakov, pioneer of mass trials in the USSR.

Rotary's Vision and Progress: The movement expanded significantly in 1979, when Rotary administered its first polio 3-H grant in the Philippines. This led to the launch of the PolioPlus programme in 1985 and the establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988 in partnership among Rotary, WHO, UNICEF, CDC/USA, GAVI and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary and its partners have successfully reduced global polio cases by 99.9% since 1988.

Urgency of Eradication: Endemic wild poliovirus transmission remains active only in Afghanistan and Pakistan underscoring the urgency of global action to eradicate Polio.

Journey of Polio Survivor: Mr. Krishna Gautam narrated the story of his struggle since he got Polio in 1978 when Polio vaccine had not been introduced in Nepal. Born in a village of Rukum District, despite all attempts to cure his illness through traditional as well as modern means including in India, which cost the family all their fortune, realisation came that it was not curable. They did not lose hope even when his parents had to physically carry him to/from school for studies. He did well and continued to complete bachelor's level studies in 2004. Since then, he has been working for the improvement of people with disabilities as an advocate and social worker. He also got training in Japan for one year, started with the concept of 'independent living' and established a centre for independent living in 2006. He is now a successful disability rights and independent living professional with more than two decades of leadership and advocacy experience. From 2017, he has been the executive secretary-general of Independent Living Centre, Lalitpur, and the executive-secretary of National Federation of the Physically Disabled in Nepal.

Polio in Nepal: Following the moving success story of Mr. Gautam, Rtn. Mallapaty briefed on the history of action against Polio in Nepal starting from 1981 when OPV was introduced into the routine immunization programme for children. Nepal was declared Polio free in March 2014 and became the first South Asian country to introduce IPV the same year. She also explained the need of both the OPV (The Gut Protector) which stops community transmission and the IPV (The Blood Protector) that guarantees individual safety.

Beyond Polio Eradication: Future-focused strategies emphasise integrating polio efforts with the broader health systems. This includes campaign-based product distribution (like clean water and soap), multi-antigen co-delivery (combining polio drops with measles, typhoid, or Vitamin A campaigns), routine immunization strengthening for zero-dose children, and reaching inaccessible communities through civil society partnerships.

Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty also explained her involvement with Polio Eradication as a member of the GPEI representing UNICEF during 2001 to 2008 when she was awarded a 'PHF' by the Rotary Foundation Trustees Chair and former Rotary International Vice-President, Rtn. Robert Scott, honouring her work in this regard. Following the presentations, she encouraged members to contribute to TRF for PolioPlus funding to continue eradication work. She pledged to match new contributions from RCP members until Friday, 30 October 2026. Some members already pledged as mentioned under 'Other Contributions' earlier.

Following a Questions/Answers session, Rtn. Sandhya Regmi gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to the presenters and President Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka presented a 'Token of Appreciation' to Mr. Krishna Gautam.