

BULLETIN of ROTARY CLUB OF SURAT WEST



Spark

Rotary Year **2024-25**

Charter Date : **30-4-96**

R.I. Dist. **3060** Zone **4-B**

Club No. : **31549**

Vol. **29**

R.I.PRESIDENT :

RTN. STEPHANIE URCHICK

DIST.GOVERNOR :

RTN. TUSHAR SHAH

CLUB PRESIDENT :

RTN. PDG.DEVENDRA SHASTRI

(M)98243 75257

E-mail: devshastr1946@gmail.com

HON.CLUB SECRETARY :

RTN.PP. TINISH MODY

(M) :98251 63432

E-mail: tinish2000@hotmail.com

BULLETIN EDITOR :

RTN.PP.BANKIM SITWALA

Mo:9825193125

E-mail: bankimsitwala@yahoo.com

19/2024-25

NEXT MEETING

*** Wednesday, January 08**

Speaker: Shri. Sanjay Choksi

Eminent Writer and Historian

Subject: સુરત: સોનાની મુરત (Surat Sona Ni Murat)



The speaker will share insight into Surat's History and Its cultural heritage including places of interest.

Venue: Crazy Bite Restaurant Banquet Hall, Piplod.

- We will felicitate all those whose **Birthday/ Wedding Anniversary** falls in January.

Time: 8.00-8.40Pm- DINNER

8.45 Pm onwards: Meeting

*** Rotarians and Spouses are most welcome.**

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

PDG Devendra- Nilima Shastri - **January 22**
PP Bhavesh- IPP. Sonal Shah - **January 24**
PP Hitendra- Sonal Mody - **January 25**
PP. Ashit- Dr. Purvi Kothari - **January 26**
Rtn. Vijay- Kajal Nihlani - **January 28**
Rtn. Ajay- Arpitta Varshney - **January 31**

Birthday Greetings

January 01: **Ann Aradhana Anil Pitaliya**
January 06: **Rtn. PP. Amit Gajjar**
January 12: **Rtn. Chirag Mahta**
January 22: **Rtn. Jayprakash Dhanuka**
January 27: **Ann Chaitali Rahul Mandyan**
January 28: **Rtn. Dr. Vishal Mandlewala**
January 29: **Ann Madhavi Vijay Mevcha**

Forthcoming Programs

***Wednesday, 16th January: Meeting of Club Board of Directors**

***Sunday, 12th January : Kite Flying for Organ Donation Awareness**
Venue: Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Surat- Dumas Road
Time: 8.00am to 12.00 noon.

***Sunday, 19th January : Movie Fellowship**

***Wednesday, 29th January: Battery Operated Hand implantation Project**
Jointly with All Rotary clubs of Surat Area

Rotary in South Asia

Membership figures as of 01 December 2024 **				
Country	Rotary Clubs	Rotarians	Rotaract Clubs	Rotaractors
Bangladesh	437	8,979	359	2,151
Bhutan	1	29	0	0
India	4,679	176,347	2,065	32,230
Maldives	1	43	0	0
Nepal	161	5,614	174	5,390
Pakistan	195	2,755	152	756
Sri Lanka	69	2,017	81	3,339
Total	5,543	195,784	2,831	43,866
Worldwide	36,706	1,171,610	9,213	125,235

** These are system generated figures as on date.

December 2024

RI Exchange Rate for US \$1

Country	Local Currency	Rate of Exchange
Bangladesh	BDT	119
India	INR	85
Nepal	NPR	135
Pakistan	PKR	278
Sri Lanka	LKR	291

Changes from last month are shown in **blue**. Current & previous RI Exchange Rates can be accessed through <https://my.rotary.org/en/exchange-rates>



Bring the joy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face.

A few years ago, someone arrived late. Instead of scolding the person, we cheered. Since then, we've made it a tradition to applaud all members when they arrive for meetings. It's tough not to smile with a greeting like that.

There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and yes, fun.

Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people — the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member, would you join your current club? It's a powerful question but don't stop there.

Do members of your club feel that they belong? Are your meetings fun? If not, what can you do about it together?

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.

Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with

community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game. This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges, all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate.

When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand-in-hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. Rotary magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you.

Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living *The Magic of Rotary*.

Stephanie A Urchick
President, Rotary International

RTN. PP. Shilpa Shah to serve as Team Leader for Inbound IYE students tour to North India



Our dynamic Rtn.PP Shilpa Shah is invited to serve as a team leader to head the team of inbound IYE students in their tour to North India from 20th February to 10th March 2025.

Our heartiest Congratulations to Rtn.PP Shilpa for volunteering to be a team leader. Another example of Service Above Self. 🙌 🌸 🌸

Rotary Photo Contest 2024

Rotary Surat West (Dist 3060) **THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

PHOTO CONTEST 2024

Submit your best festival portrait and let art meet celebration!

THEME
PORTRAITS OF FESTIVAL
LET YOUR LENS CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF FESTIVALS

SUBMIT NOW!
Submit your entries on:
rotaryphotocontest2024@gmail.com
Submission Deadline: 30th Jan '25

WIN PRIZE UPTO ₹ 50,000/-

ALL WINNING IMAGES WILL BE SHOWCASED IN AN EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITION DURING 2025!

SUPPORTED BY:
SYNERGY, GOLDENRAYS, Mehta Wealth, BHARAT GREEN, Polaris, FOCUS, POV, kapa, CSFK

Rotary Surat West (Dist 3060) **THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

Submission Rules:

- Open to all ages and Indian nationals.
- Maximum 5 photos per participant (color/B&W).
- Submission Deadline: 30.01.2025
- Photos must be taken with a digital camera or mobile phone.
- Basic editing (brightness, contrast, HDR) allowed; no major alterations like adding/removing elements.
- Submit images in JPG format, min. resolution: 1024x1024 px, max. size: 3 MB.
- Photos must be unpublished and not awarded in other contests.
- Rename files as: gourname_mobilenumber_imaginumber (e.g., vivek_9978929168_1)
- Share on social media with #rotaryphotocontest2024 (Instagram/Facebook)

Mandatory Info:

- Photo Title & Short Description
- Full Name, DOB, Address (with ZIP), Email, Phone Number
- Instagram/Facebook ID

Important Notes:

- Submitted photos may be published on social media, but this doesn't imply jury selection.
- Participants authorize their images to be used free of rights, ensuring no third-party claims exist.

Winning Images:

- Displayed at an exclusive exhibition in 2025.
- Winners can submit 3 additional images for the exhibition.

Participation implies acceptance of all rules.

1st Position ₹ 20,000. **2nd Position ₹ 15,000.** **3rd Position ₹ 10,000.**

10 Honourable Mentions: Certificates

For any Questions & Information Contact On:
PP Rtn. Vivek Goel (Contest Chair) Email: rotaryphotocontest2024@gmail.com
Rotary Club of Surat West Mobile: +91 9978929168

January is Vocational Service Month



The Object of Rotary is a philosophical statement of Rotary's purpose and the responsibilities of Rotarians. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the Second Object, which calls on Rotarians to "encourage and foster":

Those objectives are:

- To encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions, to recognise the worthiness of all useful occupations, to dignify the Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
- To apply the ideal of service in personal, business and community life.
- To advance international understanding and goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of businessmen and professional men and women united in the ideal of service.

Paul Harris wrote: "Each Rotarian is a connecting link between the idealism of Rotary and their trade or profession".

Vocational Service is the way Rotary fosters and supports the application of the Ideal of Service to the pursuit of all vocations.

It is the shared responsibility of both the Rotary Club and its members.

The role of the Club is to implement and encourage the objectives by its own actions in dealing with the community and by the development of projects that enable members to use their vocational talents in the service of the community. The role of members is to conduct themselves and their businesses in accordance with Rotary principles and support the Vocational Service projects that the club has developed.

During January, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on this important avenue of Rotary service. Discussions on vocational service can lead to projects that not only develop the ethical consciousness and vocational skills of Rotarians but also the talents within their communities. Vocational Service Month is an opportunity to begin year-long vocational service activities, ranging from Rotary discussions to awards to community projects.

Thar Summit – A Grand Success: District Conference of Rotary District 3060



The Thar Summit, the District Conference of Rotary District 3060, concluded successfully from December 20th to 22nd, 2024, leaving participants enriched and inspired. More than **1200 Rotarians, with their families attended the extravaganza**. Held amidst a vibrant backdrop celebrating Rajasthani and Indian traditions, the event brought together Rotarians, dignitaries, and thought leaders for three days of fellowship, learning, and celebration.

The representatives from about a hundred clubs, marched carrying their club flags, clad in colourful Jodhpuri outfits. **The summit opened with a session featuring keynote speaker Shri Devdutt Pattanaik and addresses by DG Tushar Shah and RIPR PDG Mehul Rathod.**

Over the following days, impactful sessions by speakers like **Ajeet Bajaj, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, PRID Kamal Sanghvi, Hon. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, KJS Dhillonji and Sudhanshu Mani captivated audiences**. Entertainment by Tejas Mitali and Shanmukha Priya added vibrancy to the evenings. The evenings were filled with exciting musical performances, lots of dancing, comradeship, and bantering. Food throughout the event was truly delicious.

DGE Amardeep Bunet and his team invited everyone for next year's conference at Agra. Group of IYE students enthralled audiences with their amazing performances. The closing day featured insightful talks by **Jinal Shah and Rakesh Bedi, followed by closing remarks from DG Tushar Shah.**

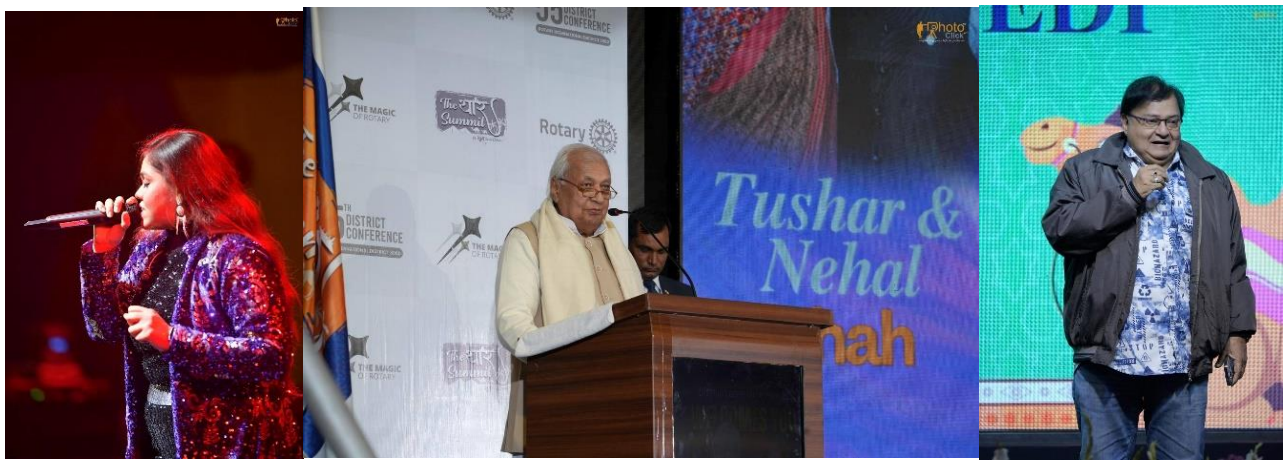
Some major recognitions for our club:

1. President **PDG Devendra Shastri** was recognised for attending more than 45 district conferences.
2. **IPP Sonal and PP Bhavesh Shah**, along with **Ann Madhvi and Rtn Vijay Mevcha** were given farewell for their RFE trip to Italy this year.
3. **IPP Sonal and PP Bhavesh Shah** were recognised for becoming major donors, and RC Surat West received appreciation for EREY during last year.

The Thar Summit successfully fostered collaboration, inspired leadership, and strengthened the Rotary spirit, leaving a lasting impact on all attendees.

- **Report by PP Bhavesh Shah**

More Photos of Thar Summit shared by President PDG Devendra Shastri



Rotary Wisdom

You can be a
people pleaser or
a people
developer.
Leaders bring
out the best in
people rather
than trying to
please everyone.

-STEVE GUTZLER

If you want to make
everyone happy,
don't be a leader.
Sell ice cream.

South Asia International Peace Conference 2025

Rotary District 3192

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

SAIPPC

SAIPPC



Dr. Sushama K. Srinivas
Rotary International President 2024-25



P. S. Srinivas
Rotary International Director 2023-25



P. S. Srinivas
Rotary International Director 2023-25



P. S. Srinivas
Rotary District Governor, SID 2023-2024-25



P. S. Srinivas
Rotary District Governor, SID 2023-2024-25



P. S. Srinivas
Chairman, South Asia International Peace Conference 2025

REGISTER NOW!

JOIN NOW

SOUTH ASIA INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE - 2025

Let's create a world where Peace is nurtured by nature and well-being!

Healthier World, Greener Tomorrow!

Date & Venue:
22nd & 23rd
March 2025
@ KTPO
Whitefield,
Bengaluru,
India

Goals & Outcomes - Health

- Promote Access to Healthcare
- Enhance Health Education
- Support Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Improve Maternal and Child Health
- Address Mental Health Issues
- Strengthen Healthcare Infrastructure
- Support Clean Water and Sanitation
- Empower Healthcare Workers
- Foster Collaboration and Innovation

Join Rotary in India for an extraordinary gathering dedicated to fostering peace through critical global issues: the environment and health. This landmark conference will bring together thought leaders, policymakers, and change-makers to explore how sustainable environmental practices and better healthcare can lead to lasting peace. Be part of the dialogue, take action, and help shape a future where peace thrives through a healthier planet and healthier people.



Scan for Registration

www.saipc.in

FOR QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT: INFO.DGOFFICE2425@GMAIL.COM,
MOBILE NO. +91 8123303888 / +91 81233 84222,
OFFICE POSTAL ADDRESS: # 192, 3RD FLOOR, 18TH CROSS, 20TH MAIN, MRCR,
VIJAYANAGAR, BENGALURU- 560 040
KARNATAKA, INDIA

SAVE THE DATE

Message from President PDG Devendra Shastri



Dear fellow Rotarians,

As we welcome the New Year 2025, I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you and your family. May this year bring us renewed energy, inspiration, and opportunities to make a positive impact in our community and around the world.

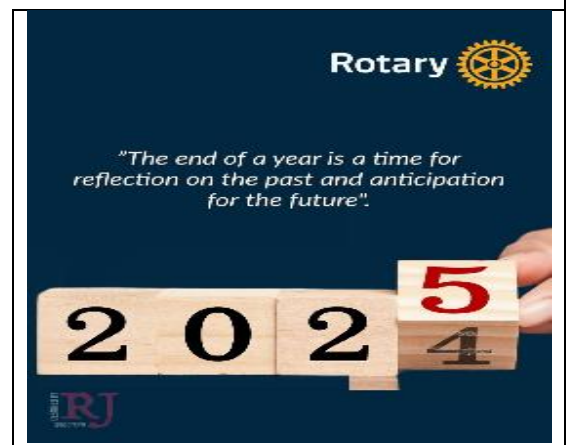
As we continue our journey in Rotary year 2024-25, It is also time to reflect on the last 6 months of our journey. While we have implemented several projects, programs and initiated several reforms for streamlining club administration, **there are few areas which need everyone's attention to name a few; Membership Growth, attendance at regular meetings, Rotary Foundation giving and increased participation in the Fireside get-to-gather program.** Whatever we have achieved so far is due to positive leadership and initiative by members of Board of Directors, project managers and Program co-ordinators with co-operation of RCSW family. **I wish every Rotarian of our club walks an extra mile to get involved in club programs and projects, including attending Rotary meetings with spouse. I seek your earnest co-operation and suggestions for programs and projects.**

Our club has a rich history of service and commitment to our community. In the year ahead, let us continue to build on this legacy and explore new ways to make a difference. Whether through our ongoing projects or new initiatives, I invite you to join me in embracing the Rotary International theme for this year: **"Magic of Rotary"**

I am honoured to serve as your president and look forward to working alongside each of you in the second half of the Rotary year 2024-25. I assure you of my best efforts to keep our club vibrant with Rotary spirit of harmony and goodwill.

Nilima joins me in conveying our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2025 to you and your family!

Yours in Rotary,
Devendra Shastri
President.



Indian Navy's Missile Destroyer – “ SURAT “



The Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) delivered the fourth stealth destroyer of Project 15B Class to the Indian Navy.

As per an official statement the missile destroyer will be called **INS Surat** after commissioning. The warship will now undergo sea trials.

The Navy's Warship Design Bureau designed the warships, built by the MDL and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team, Mumbai.

As per the statement, **Surat** is the fourth ship of Project 15B and is a potent platform capable of undertaking a variety of tasks and missions, spanning the full spectrum of maritime warfare. It is armed with supersonic surface-to-surface Brahmos missiles and 'Barak-8 medium-range surface-to-air missiles. The destroyer is fitted with indigenously developed anti-submarine weapons and sensors, prominently the hull-mounted Sonar Humsa NG, heavy-weight torpedo tube launchers and ASW rocket launchers.

Significantly more versatile than the previous classes of destroyer and frigates in the Naval inventory, **Surat's** all-round capability against enemy submarines, surface warships, anti-ship missiles and fighter aircraft will enable it to operate independently without supporting vessels and also to function as the flagship of a Naval task force.

HUMOUR

The Fortune Teller

A man goes to visit a fortune teller. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news. "There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt - prepare yourself to be a widower. Your wife will die a violent and horrible death this year." Visibly shaken, the man stares at the fortune teller's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. He took a few deep breaths to compose himself. He simply had to know. He met the fortune-teller's gaze, steadied his voice, and asked his question: "Will I be found guilty?"

“Spark” conveys Best wishes for



to RCSW family and all readers.