



**Rtn. Francesco Arezzo**

RI President

**Rtn. Amandeep Singh Bunet**

District Governor, RI Dist.3060

**Rtn. Gautam Raval**

Club President

**PP Rtn. Manoj Gajiwala**

Honorary Secretary





## Mission in Motion

### Outstanding Educator Award: Celebrating the Future Transformers

In a heartfelt celebration of dedication and excellence, Rotary Surat Riverside hosted the Outstanding Educator Award Ceremony on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Sarosh Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevan Bharti School, to honor the exceptional educators who shape minds and inspire futures. The event recognized 52 teachers from Private Schools of Surat for their commitment, innovation, and unwavering passion in nurturing students' growth across academics, extracurriculars, and life skills.

We were privileged to have District Literacy Chair, Rtn Sharmila Jain of Rotary Club of Surat Seafac, grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. Her gracious presence and inspiring words uplifted the atmosphere, motivating both teachers and our members. We could also host our Assistant Governor Rtn Sandeep Nanavati, Rtn Ram Mandloi, respected Principals of various institutions and the most deserving teachers.

A very special note of appreciation goes to the core organizers – Past President Rtn Dr. Prashant Kariya, Literacy Chair of our club, Past President Rtn Rajesh Mehta for his immersed involvement and also for lending his team from Hexa Geo to arrange the certificates, and of course the dynamic duo, President Rtn Gautam Raval and Past President Secretary Rtn Manoj Gajiwala. This event simply would not have been such a success without their relentless efforts.

It was truly an evening of appreciation, recognition, and celebration — honoring the remarkable educators who light the path of knowledge for generations to come.





## Adopting Futures – Our Dang Giving

Rotary Surat Riverside continued its tradition of service and compassion through the Annual Dang Project, focusing on funding and adopting students from the tribal belt this year, to support their education and holistic development.

A team of 5 members – President Rtn Gautam Raval, Hon. Sec. Past President Manoj Gajiwala, Past President Rtn Rajesh Mehta, Past President Rtn Bankim Vashi under the leadership of Past President Rtn Siddharrtha Shahh visited Khoba Village on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to support the Project Gyan Mandalam which is run by Lokmangalam Charitable Trust.

Through the collective efforts of our members and generous contributors, Rotary Surat Riverside has not only funded and adopted students but also invested in nurturing dreams and transforming lives. With the donation collected, we could fund 4 students for the year and adopted 5 children – 3 adoptions by Past President Rtn Bankim Vashi, 1 by Past President Hon. Sec. Manoj Gajiwala and another by Past President Rtn Rajesh Mehta. Heartfelt gratitude to these 3 philanthropists exclusively!

Each adoption represents a promise – a promise of education, hope, and empowerment in the heart of the Dangs.







Gratitude to our donors Past President Rtn Dr Prashant Kariya, Past President Rtn Manoj Jain, Rtn Bobby Patel, Rtn Tejashri Mehta, Rtn Rajan Talwar, President Rtn Gautam Raval, Rtn Manoj Bhatia, Rtn Nilisha Jariwala, Rtn Rakhi Jindal, Rtn Dr Nehal Patel, Rtn Lina Bachkaniwala, First Lady Jayana Raval and two RSRians.

Truly, this project embodies the Rotary spirit of Service Above Self, lighting the path for the next generation.



## Joint Project Meeting – Human Milk Bank Van Initiative

The Rotary Clubs of Surat decided to collaborate on a joint project, and this new opportunity brought renewed enthusiasm and purpose. On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025, members gathered at Sarosh Bhacca Rotary Hall at 8:30pm for a special meeting to discuss the proposed Joint Project – Human Milk Bank Van.

This meaningful initiative, aligning perfectly with Rotary's focus area of Maternal and Child Health, aims to make a tangible difference in the lives of newborns and mothers in need. The concept was introduced by our club member, Past President Rtn Dr. Prashant Kariya, who has already connected with several Rotary clubs – with encouraging responses and commitments of support from almost all.

During the meeting, members were presented with detailed information and a project presentation, helping everyone gain a deeper understanding of the initiative's scope, purpose, and logistics. Discussions also focused on the way forward, coordination among clubs, and next steps to bring the project to fruition.

Together, we look forward to turning this vision into reality – a project that promises to nurture lives and spread compassion in the truest Rotary spirit.





## Curtains Up for Charity @ Rajhans Precia

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at 6:30pm, the curtains of Rajhans Precia were rolled up for a special cause — to raise funds for our club's impactful service projects. These include education, nutrition, women's health, physiotherapy care, adult literacy, tree plantation, medical camps, cervical cancer prevention, and many more initiatives that touch lives and build stronger communities.

It was a House Full show of Jolly LLB 3 — a film that brought both laughter and justice to the screen, while our cause brought hope and service to society. The screening of a short video showcasing our Service Projects in a nutshell was the icing on the cake, giving everyone a glimpse of the difference their support makes.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of attendees, Rotary Surat Riverside raised a whopping ₹90,510/-, a remarkable achievement that is truly supremely laudable.

A huge thank you to the core team comprising Rtn Kapil Arora, Past President Rtn Ritu Talwar, Rtn Nirupa Patel, Rtn Dhvani Mehta, Rtn Tejashri Mehta, and our dynamic duo, President Rtn Gautam Raval and Secretary Past President Manoj Gajiwala, for their tireless efforts in making the show a resounding success. Heartfelt gratitude to all RSRians who contributed to this fundraising program, especially those who sold tickets with enthusiasm and dedication — with a special shoutout to the top ticket sellers for their outstanding efforts!







Issue 003

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 / Vol. 30



Kudos to our technical team led by Past President Rtn Rajesh Mehta for their exceptional work behind the scenes. We are also thankful to Rajhans Precia for their support and the theatre management for their excellent cooperation, particularly facilitated by Rtn Kapil Arora, Rtn Nirupa Patel, and Secretary Past President Rtn Manoj Gajiwala.

Truly, it was an event of Lights, Camera, and GIVE!!!







## Nourish to Flourish: Project Poshan Weeks

Venue: Anganwadi 36 & 37

Beneficiaries: 60 children

Malnourishment is not just a matter of hunger – it's a silent crisis that robs children of their potential, weakens communities, and holds back progress.

At Rotary, we believe that no child should suffer due to lack of proper nutrition, and that a healthy life is the foundation of a bright future. Therefore, with the continued efforts of the women force of Rotary Surat Riverside, the Project Poshan continues its third year under the able guidance of Rtn. Emily Jacob, Rtn. Jaina Gajiwala and Rtn. Rakhi Jindal.

Kudos to the donors! Your act of benevolence brings smiles to so many faces.

### Week 78

Date : 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Food : Soy Milk & Fruit

Volunteers : Rtn. Emily Jacob and Rtn. Jaina Gajiwala

Sponsors : Rtn. Rakhi Jindal & Spouse Yogesh Jindal







Issue 003

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 /Vol. 30



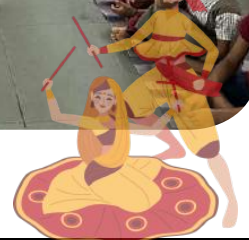
## Week 79

Date : 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Food : Soy Milk & Fruit  
Volunteers : PP Rtn. Ritu Talwar and Rtn. Jaina Gajiwala  
Sponsors : Rtn. Rakhi Jindal & Spouse Yogesh Jindal



## Week 80

Date : 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Food : Soy Milk & Fruit  
Volunteers : President Rtn. Gautam Raval, First Lady Jayna Raval, Rtn. Jaina Gajiwala, PP Rtn Ritu Talwar, Rtn Kinnari Nakrani & Rtn Nirupa Patel  
Sponsors : Rtn. Rakhi Jindal & Spouse Yogesh Jindal







## Week 81

Date : 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Food : Soy Milk & Fruit, Special Cup Cakes

Volunteers : Rtn. Emily Jacob, PP Rtn. Ritu Talwar, Rtn. Jaina Gajiwala and  
Rtn Kinnari Nakrani

Sponsors : Rtn. Rakhi Jindal & Spouse Yogesh Jindal, and PP Rtn Ritu Talwar



## Colours of Expression and Annapurna: Rotary Surat Riverside's 3rd HUMF Project

Rotary Surat Riverside organized a Drawing Competition for the children of Segwachama Village Primary School under the HUMF initiative on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. The project aimed to encourage creativity, spark imagination, and spread joy among young students by providing them with a platform to express themselves through art on how to conserve our planet Earth.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation, with children pouring their hearts into their colourful creations. Winners were recognized with small tokens of appreciation, while every participant received consolation gifts, ensuring that each child felt valued and encouraged.

After the competition, a nutritious lunch of chole, poori, and salad was served to all the children, bringing smiles and satisfaction all around. The day concluded with a fellowship lunch with the teachers, who lovingly prepared veg khichdi, kadhi, and sabji for the visiting Rotarians.







A special note of gratitude goes to Rtn. Nirupa Patel, Ann. Vaishali Kariya, and Rtn. Kinnari Nakrani for generously sponsoring the HUMF Project. Heartfelt thanks also to the Rotarians and Anns who attended the event, adding warmth, encouragement, and joy to the day's proceedings.

The event was truly a meaningful blend of creativity, care, and community bonding, embodying the Rotary spirit of "Service Above Self." It was a day filled with colour, compassion, and the simple joy that comes from sharing and giving.







## RSR Voices, We Hear

### A Rendezvous with our Budding Writer Past President Rtn. Dr. Prashant Kariya

**Editor:** Good evening Past President Rtn. Dr. Kariya!

It's a pleasure for me to interview you today as a budding writer.

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Good evening! A pleasure for me too.

**Editor:** Okay then, let's get going with the interview.

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Definitely...

**Editor:** My first question.

What inspired you to write your first two books?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** When my son Param turned 18, I thought I'd give him my life lessons in a book instead of an expensive gift. He wasn't too excited initially, but my daughter Nitya loved it! Since both kids were part of the stories, I ended up writing two books — one for him and one for her.

☞ *Because sometimes the best gift isn't wrapped in paper, but in words.*

**Editor:** That's indeed an amazing gift you wrapped.

So, how long did it take to complete the manuscript?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** About two years. The stories were already written, but compiling, polishing, and endless rounds of editing took up the real time.

☞ *Turns out, writing a book is like raising kids — the stories come quickly, but the finishing takes forever!*

**Editor:** It definitely is.

What was your writing routine like?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** No fixed schedule — just a promise to myself to write at least an hour a day. Some days it stretched to two. Parenting the manuscript, you could say!

☞ *The only routine I followed was showing up — the rest was managed by coffee and chaos.*

**Editor:** That's interesting!!!

Did you face any challenges during the writing process?







## RSR Voices, We Hear

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Not major challenges — the stories flowed easily. The only tricky part was making every chapter feel uniform. For that, I wrote, rewrote, and then rewrote again.

☞ *Because sometimes writing a book is less about inspiration and more about perspiration.*

**Editor:** Absolutely!!!

Who were your biggest influences or mentors while writing this book?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Without doubt — Param and Nitya.

☞ They were not just my children, but my cheerleaders, critics, and co-authors in spirit.

**Editor:** How adorable!!!

Can you give us a brief overview of your book?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** It's not a "parenting guide," it's more like a parenting mirror. The book reflects the fun, flaws, mistakes, and magic every parent experiences. To me, it's the journey of me and Vaishali with our kids.

☞ *Think of it as parenting — unfiltered and straight from the heart.*

**Editor:** Straight from your heart, that's touching!!!

What message do you hope readers take away from your book?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Every parent will find at least one chapter that feels like their own story. And hopefully, you'll avoid some of the mistakes I made.

☞ *If my mistakes save you a few — my job is done.*

**Editor:** A noble thought it is...

Did you draw from personal experience or research to craft your story?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** It's 100% personal experience.

☞ *No research papers, just real-life parenting papers — signed with love (and sometimes frustration).*

**Editor:** OKAY!!!

What was the most rewarding part of writing this book?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** The smile on my kids' faces when they first held the book.

☞ *No bestseller list can beat that moment.*





## RSR Voices, We Hear

**Editor:** That must have been such a fulfilling moment.

What was the process of getting your book published like?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** At first, I thought I'd self-publish, but designing, drafting, editing, and printing were overwhelming. So, I reached out to White Falcon Publishers. They did a fantastic job with editing and even published it on Kindle.

☞ *Lesson learnt: sometimes outsourcing is self-care.*

**Editor:** And self-care for sure is of utmost importance.

Did you have any surprises during the publishing process?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Not really — everything went smoothly.

☞ *The biggest surprise was that there was no surprise!*

**Editor:** Good to know!!!

What has the response been like since your book was published?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** The best came from my teacher, Dr. Swati Bhawe, who read it almost in one go and said it brought her parenting journey back like a flashback. Another unforgettable response was from Anand Acharya, who said he almost cried while reading it.

☞ *When readers cry and smile with you, that's when you know your words have worked.*

**Editor:** Can't be any better responses.

How are you promoting your book and what strategies have worked best?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Mostly through social media and by sharing it during my lectures. I tell people, "If you want to know the real Prashant you haven't seen, read this book." That curiosity works!

☞ *A little mystery always makes the story irresistible.*

**Editor:** I'm impressed.

What advice would you give first-time authors about handling their book launch?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Give your best, put in your heart — and trust that everything will fall in place.

☞ *Don't aim for perfect, aim for honesty.*







## RSR Voices, We Hear

**Editor:** Very very inspiring.

How has writing this book changed your perspective on being an author?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** It's made me a better person. Writing down my values has made me more committed to living them.

☞ *When your words hold you accountable, you grow.*

**Editor:** And you clearly are growing...

Are there any other genres or topics you'd like to explore in the future?

**PP Dr. Kariya:** Yes, I'm already working on my next book — on newborn care. It's based on the daily questions from new parents in my clinic. Coming soon!

☞ *Because parenting doesn't stop with my kids — it continues with every newborn I meet.*

**Editor:** Perfectly said Dr. Kariya!

My best wishes to you for your future projects. It was a pleasure interviewing you. I got to learn so many new things from you today. It has opened a new world to me as a parent and as an individual.

My heartfelt gratitude to you for sparing your valuable time. **PP Dr. Kariya:** The pleasure is mine. I too had an amazing time being interviewed. See you soon!







## RSR Voices, We Hear

### A Journey of Power, Perseverance, and Pride

– By Ann Sangita Anand

I feel truly honored to share my journey as an Electrical Engineer — one that was both challenging and deeply fulfilling. My career began at the erstwhile Gujarat Electricity Board, now known as Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited (DGVCL), and spanned an incredible 35 years of dedicated service.

Back in 1988, when I graduated in B.E. (Electrical) from Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional Engineering College, Surat, there were only six girls in our batch. Admission then was based purely on merit — there were no payment seats, only hard-earned opportunities.

At work, when most women engineers were assigned to office duties, I was fortunate to get the chance to serve in the Transmission Department, managing the 220 kV substation — a role that was both demanding and exhilarating. My responsibilities included attending faults at substations and transmission lines of 220 and 66 kilovolts, often at any hour of the day or night. It was a job that tested both my skill and stamina, but also brought immense satisfaction.

Later, I served as Deputy Engineer in the Distribution Department, overseeing Adajan and Pal, which were then among Surat's fastest-developing areas. My journey took me through the Surat Rural Circle Office, where I handled extra high tension and high-tension connections for the rapidly expanding industrial belts of Kim, Pipodra, Borsara, and Kadodara, as well as the rural and forest regions of Vyara and Bardoli.

I also had the opportunity to work in the Material Procurement Department and the Meter Testing Laboratory, gaining diverse technical and managerial experience. I eventually retired as an Executive Engineer, in charge of 11 subdivisions, including the highly demanding industrial zones of Sayan, Gothan, Laskana, and the bustling urban areas along Varachha Road. This final phase of my career was perhaps the most challenging — requiring both mental strength and physical endurance — yet also the most rewarding.







## RSR Voices, We Hear

By the grace of God, the blessings of my parents, and the unwavering support of my husband Rtn Anand Acharya, my beloved Shree, and my in-laws, I am proud to have completed my career with an unblemished record — a rare and fulfilling accomplishment in a public utility service.

It has been a journey of grit, gratitude, and grace — and above all, a testament to the belief that no challenge is too great when faced with dedication and faith.

## Did you know?

From building bridges to critical research, women engineers have played an invaluable role in influencing the world that we live in today.

Yet they often don't get the credit that they deserve. Engineering has been largely a male-dominated industry throughout history and women have had to overcome tremendous obstacles to break through discriminatory barriers.

On Engineer's Day, which was on 15 September, the trailblazing Indian women who paved the way for future generations of female engineers were reminisced.

This was a forward in our RSR Club group by Ann Sangita Acharya who herself contributed to the society as an engineer. We are proud of you. Thank you for sharing this invaluable piece of information.



**INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE  
ENGINEERS WHO BLAZED A  
TRAIL IN THEIR INDUSTRY**







Issue 003

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 / Vol. 30



**PK Thressia** Was The First Woman To Hold The Position Of Chief Engineer Of a Public Works Department in Asia.



India's First Female Civil Engineer, **Shakuntala Bhagat** Built 69 Bridges From Kashmir To Arunachal Pradesh.



**Rajyalakshmi Reddi** Was India's First Woman Telecommunications Engineer; Went On To Work As A Sound Engineer For AIR



Graduating In Civil Engineering, **Leelamma Koshie** Was Kerala's 1st Woman Engineer.



**Rajeshwari Chatterjee** Was Karnataka's First Woman Engineer; Also The First Woman Engineer To Be Appointed On IISc's Faculty.



**Ila Ghose** Was Asia's First Female Mechanical Engineer And West Bengal's First Woman Engineer



Married At 15 And Widowed At 18, **Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha** Was India's First Female Engineer

## Milestone Memories

### • Another Trip Around the Sun

4<sup>th</sup> October : Ann. Priti Pandya  
6<sup>th</sup> October : PP Rtn. Siddharrtha Shahh  
11<sup>th</sup> October : PP Rtn. Raju Mehta  
12<sup>th</sup> October : PP Rtn. Rajesh Mehta  
14<sup>th</sup> October : Ann. Mita Mahadevwala

14<sup>th</sup> October : Rtn. Amita Desai  
16<sup>th</sup> October : Rtn. Nilisha Jariwala  
17<sup>th</sup> October : PP Rtn. Manoj Jain  
20<sup>th</sup> October : Annet. Anay Shah  
27<sup>th</sup> October : Ann. Drashti Raval





## Events in the Spotlight, October 2025

As the festive season approaches, Rotary Surat Riverside continues to embody the true spirit of Service Above Self through a series of meaningful initiatives that blend joy, compassion, and sustainability.

### Pre-Diwali Celebrations

A vibrant celebration of togetherness and goodwill, marking the spirit of Diwali with joy, smiles, and shared moments of happiness.

### A Heartwarming Visit to the Old Age Home @ Vesu

Members will spend some memorable time with senior citizens, sharing conversations, melodies, and warmth through a special music program and lunch — a heartfelt gesture to bring light into their lives.

### E-Waste Collection Drive

Promoting environmental responsibility, this drive encourages the community to dispose of electronic waste safely and responsibly, contributing to a cleaner and greener planet.

### Ongoing Poshan & HUMF Projects

Continuing our commitment to nutrition of children and menstrual health and hygiene of teenaged girls, the Poshan & HUMF initiatives focus on providing essential nourishment and care to those in need, fostering wellness and wellbeing.







## Glorious Glimpses

### Happy Memories Captured by Rusha Patel in Brazil

Returning from my short-term exchange was one of the most bittersweet feelings because it seemed that it ended too quickly. Those twenty days have been an unforgettable experience filled with memories, friendship and laughter.

The thing I loved the most about Brazil were the people they were very warm and made sure I felt right at home and not like an outsider. Their love for music, food, festivals and dance mirrored the Indian culture.

Every single person there is so kind and making new friends even if you are not a major extrovert, it comes so naturally. I couldn't try all their foods as I am a vegetarian and many of the famous dishes have meat but I still got to taste and love many of the desserts and snacks. So, I made sure to try every single thing just like they have it usually.

Sharing favorite foods, dance moves and everyday phrases made everything way more fun. Living with my host family was so amazing and the bond I made with them is undeniably special and saying goodbye (or beijos) for the last time had all of us on the verge of tears.

Nonetheless, I came back with loads of handwritten notes from my friends and family and a gallery overflowing with pictures as a proof of that precious experience. It definitely changed my perspective about how people across the globe are so similar in the context of love and life underneath the exteriors of difference in language or culture.

So, a big thanks goes to Rotary for making this experience possible, to the host club Rotary Surat Riverside for checking in with me at every point to make sure everything is going smoothly and to District 3060 for apprising and preparing us for the exchange.





## Thoughts in Transit

### The Need to Balance Our Emotions

As a sensitive soul, there are times when emotions come flooding in — sometimes not just as gentle waves, but as a full-blown tsunami within. These feelings, though genuine and deeply human, can often become overwhelming.

It is in such moments that emotional balance becomes essential. Letting these sensations flow unchecked may not always be beneficial; they can easily sweep away the ground beneath our feet, leaving us feeling unstable or drained.

Learning to acknowledge yet regulate our emotions allows us to remain grounded — to experience deeply, but not be consumed. True strength lies not in suppressing feelings, but in understanding and channelling them with grace and awareness.

Enlisting a few of our emotions — with the help of AI — just for us to revisit, reflect, and balance them. Because every emotion has its place, its purpose, and its poetry within us. 🌈

🎨 Collage of Emotions ❤️

😊 Joy — the sunshine that dances in the heart, a laugh that echoes in the soul.

😞 Sadness — the quiet rain that washes the spirit clean.

😡 Anger — fire in the chest, fierce and fleeting, demanding to be understood.

❤️ Love — a soft glow that warms even the coldest corners.

😬 Fear — the whisper of uncertainty that trembles before courage rises.

🌈 Hope — a fragile thread that somehow never breaks.

🕊️ Peace — the stillness after the storm, when every breath feels whole.

💛 Compassion — the bridge that connects one heart to another.

🙏 Gratitude — the silent smile for life's small miracles.

😄 Wonder — eyes wide open to the beauty of simply being.

Together they form the tapestry of humanity —  
each emotion a color 🎨,  
each feeling a brushstroke 🖌️,  
painting the portrait of who we are ❤️.

IPP Rtn. Rinki Barman

Editor

Riverside Surat







## Rotary Achievement



*It was a record-breaking year for Rotaract giving. 🎉 Congratulations to the 1,036 Rotaract clubs that earned the 2024-25 Rotaract Giving Certificate!, Rotaractors' donations increased by almost a third over last year. 😊*

