

# RIVERSIDE RIPPLES



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SERVICE Above Self  
**ROTARY SURAT RIVERSIDE**

*We meet every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. at Dr. Bhacca Rotary Hall, Jeevanbharti School.  
All our meets are dinner meets.*

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## Cover Story



### Sukh Ke Sab Saathi Dukh Mein Na Koi.

**O**ur club which was bereft of a speaker meet for quite some time was fortunate to have Shri Janak Naik - a well known columnist in *Gujarat Mitra* - in our last meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. His article under the column "Man Na Majhdhare Thi" is published every Tuesday.

A very self assuming person Shri Janakbhai spoke on a sensitive issue and a very elusive feeling to everyone especially in today's hectic life - *SUKH*. He in his own serene and placid style highlighted the essentiality of happiness for each individual as today's globalization, modernization and the subsequent rat race pushes everyone in a state of melancholy, eventually leading to distress and even depression. He tried to point out the different causes leading to such situations in the process explaining us the types of grief that anyone can have. Some people, he said, might be sad because they don't find success coming their way; whilst some would be tormented because they don't get to have things their own way, and then there are people who find their lives miserable just for no reason. He calmly explained to the captivated audience that sorrow is nothing but the absence of pleasure, just as darkness is nothing but the absence of light.

Happiness, the ultimate solution to all this should be sought by means of self-evaluation and subsequent incorporation of contentment in one's life, said the learned guest speaker, although adding tacitly that such a virtue should not eventually get replaced by a sense of complacency. Self-Satisfaction and gratification alone are the ways to attain this ambiguous condition which finally leads one to a state of true happiness.

Janakbhai, truly enthralled the audience in his 20 odd allotted minutes and the 22 Riversiders present - who I'm sure were delighted to see a punctual proceeding following yet another of a sumptuous *Gujarati* dinner - dispersed being a little *Sukhi* than before.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### I AM THANKFUL FOR...

- The mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- The taxes I pay because it means I'm employed.
- The clothes that fit a little to snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- My shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- The lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- The spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.
- The complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.
- The huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- The lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.
- The piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.
- The alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I'm alive.
- The weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

Life gets so busy and competitive that we forget what's really important. May all the people you know and love be thankful always  
Thanks!!!



# 10 Great Inventions



1. The Mechanical Clock: Before this invention, time was inseparable from events, the main one being the Sun crossing the sky. Only local time existed, no universal river of time. If you agreed to meet someone at sunset, you had to say where, because the Sun is always setting somewhere. The sundial merely divided the Sun's daily journey into units, which meant the hour had no fixed length: it swelled and shrank with the seasons. Besides, no one carried a sundial around, so you never heard anyone say, "Can't talk now, I'm on the sundial." Then, mechanical clocks came around--gears, springs, pendulums, the works. Gradually, as these clocks all came to be coordinated, they created public time, a thing in itself: one single, universal current flowing everywhere throughout the universe, always at the same pace. People could now communicate with each other by coordinating to this universal frame of reference. Thus, clocks made factories, offices, schools, meetings, and appointments possible. The activities of millions could be meshed like, well, clockwork. And of course, what clocks made possible, they soon made necessary. In a clock-driven world, most of us are now either "on time," "ahead of schedule," or "running late."

2. The Toilet and Modern Plumbing: Go ahead. Laugh. Then try to imagine New York City without toilets. You can't. The ability to remove sewage from and bring clean water into places of dense human habitation makes the modern city possible. Without it, we'd still have cities, but not like the ones we know. A high-rise building would be impossible, really, without toilets and plumbing. Remove apartment buildings, office towers, and dense downtown cores from your picture of the world and you have to change the whole rest of your picture too, because the implications keep rippling.

3. The Printing Press: Unoriginal, I know, but still it's true. Gutenberg's press, with its moveable type, launched publishing. In the short term, this made the Reformation possible by putting a Bible in the hands of anybody who wanted one. The Church lost its lock on truth, and the sovereign individual soon emerged as the key unit of Western society. In the longer term, publishing universalized literacy. Before this invention, so few could read that, effectively, even those few lived in a world of oral tradition and memory. Humanity's consensual picture of reality was shaped by stories, told and retold. In this fluid world, if the big picture shifted, no one knew, because they had nothing to check it against. The proliferation of text fixed objective reality. Now, when two people disagree about what happened yesterday, they can look it up. Stories have survived, but merely as entertainment. Our modern collective picture of reality is founded on facts archived as text.

4. Immunization and Antibiotics: Three centuries ago, almost everyone died of infectious diseases. When the plague broke out in 1347, it killed nearly half of Europe--in about two years. When diseases such as smallpox reached North America, they reduced the indigenous population by about 90 percent within a century. As late as 1800, the leading cause of death in the West was tuberculosis. Hardly anyone died of old age back then, one reason why elders were revered. Today, elders are a dime a dozen: nothing unusual about surviving past 70. In the United States, 73 percent of people die of heart failure, cancer, and stroke. Chronic respiratory illnesses (related to smoking mostly) account for the fourth biggest slice of funeral business. It's a different world, folks.

5. The Telephone: Lots of people imagined the telephone before any telephone existed. Wouldn't it be cool, they said, if you could talk to someone in another city without leaving home? Once the device was invented, and businessmen had wrested it away from the inventors, the Network began to form. That's the actual invention--the Network. It enables anyone to talk to anyone anywhere at any given moment. So today, anyone's real-time group includes people not physically present, and they could be anywhere. The infrastructure took some time to develop, but the telephone implied all this from the start. Wireless cell phones

don't change the core idea, they merely extend it. The Network continues to deepen.

6. The Electrical Grid: Electricity existed all along, but the system of devices needed to generate this force and distribute it to individual buildings was an invention-Edison's masterpiece. Now, anyone in the West and throughout most of the world can tap into the grid to power everything from light bulbs to computers. Electricity flows through modern society like blood circulating through a living organism. We are, in fact, a social organism animated by electricity (and rendered conscious by the Network--see above).

7. The Automobile: Once cars were invented, roads were improved. Once roads were improved, cities sprouted suburbs, because people could now live in the country, yet work in the city. And thus we have become a nation of sprawl, rather than density. Furthermore, as cars grew popular, the oil industry boomed. Oil became a key to power and wealth--and one of the major factors for political and economic unrest in the Middle East. And here we are today.

8. The Television: Wherever a television set is on, it absorbs attention like no other piece of furniture. Jane Healy, in her book *Endangered Minds*, says television has changed the human brain itself. Our neural networks are not hardwired at birth but continue to develop for several years, new circuits forming in response to our first interactions with the environment. In much of the developed world, young children interact largely with television, so their neural networks hardwire to accommodate its warm, one-way, pacifying, activity-dampening stimulus.

9. The Computer: Okay, look. I'll come clean: my deepest, richest, most diverse and rewarding relationship is with my computer. It plays games with me, tells me jokes, plays music to me, and does my taxes. I have great conversations with it, too. These conversations appear as e-mail and take on the personalities of supposed "friends," but the human embodiments of those "friends" are rarely with me. My concrete relationship is with this object on my desk (or in my lap). Anyway, when we can take the equivalent of our own brains onto an airplane with us in an attach case, that's got to be shaping who we are in some important way.

10. Something New: So many seminal new inventions are coming into their own right now that one of them surely belongs on this list, but which one? The Internet represents the emergence of a global brain, separate from all the human cells contributing to it. Birth control will ultimately transform the role women play in society and history--and any transformation in who women are will force a transformation in men, too. Genetic engineering can potentially complete the metamorphosis of people into products. There's no telling what such an objectification of ourselves will do to us. And what about virtual reality? It's bidding to dissolve the age-old distinction between what is real and what is imaginary. I can't imagine how that will change our lives--no, really, I can't. Imagine.



**BAR BAR HAAN - BOLO YAAR HO    APNI JEET HO - UNKI HAAR HO**

The chairman of the District Sports Committee Rtn. Devang Desai (R.C. Vidyanagar) has announced the schedule of this year's sports meet. The event which is to be hosted by R.C. of Baroda Sayajinagari from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December is to be inaugurated by D.G. Ashis Roy on 10-12-05 at 2:30 p.m. Entries are invited from the clubs to compete in events like Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball, Tug-of-war, Carom, Snooker, Bridge, Chess and running (above and below 40 yrs.) So friends lets tighten our shoe strings and beat 'em up!!!

### PUNCHTANTRA

After Hurricane Katrina's fury in New Orleans, the word hurricane only inspires fear and conjures of images of insurmountable devastation. Few would think of the hurricane lamp, or the Jeep that was crafted to be a vehicle concerned only with performance. The word derived from Spanish huracan, from Taino hurakan; akin to Arawak kulakani, thunder, means a severe tropical cyclone originating in the equatorial regions of the Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea or eastern regions of the Pacific Ocean, travelling north, northwest, or northeast from its point of origin, and usually involving heavy rains. It is also said to have come from the name of a native Caribbean Amerindian storm god, Huracan.

### ROTARY WATER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

A seminar on Rain Water Harvesting is to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October in the Seminar Hall of South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce. The seminar which is going to be based on Recharging of Boring is being hosted by Rotary Club of Udhna and arranged by neighbouring 10 clubs of Surat jointly. Members are suggested to invite Presidents / Secretaries of their respective housing societies / apartments to participate in this seminar in order to take the most benefit. This exercise is surely a stepping stone towards a solution to the biggest threat to mankind in the coming 50 years - WATER CRISIS.



Aspire to acquire the desire that you admire. But if in the process you perspire, don't retire but refire to acquire that desire that you admire.

-Contributed by Rtn. Kuldeep Desai



### LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE



A man in his 40's bought a new BMW and was out driving on the interstate at top speed when he suddenly saw flashing red and blue lights behind him. "There's no way they can catch a BMW," he thought to himself and sped up even more. Then the reality of the situation hit him, "What the heck am I doing?" he thought and pulled over. The cop came up to him, took his license without a word, and examined it and the car. "It's been a long day, it is the end of my shift, and it's Friday the 13th. I don't feel like more paperwork, so if you can give me an excuse for your driving that I haven't heard before, you can go." The guy thinks for a second and says, "Last week my wife ran off with a cop. I was afraid you were trying to give her back." "Have a nice weekend," said the officer.

LOVE is like Nokia  
connecting people  
LOVE is like Pepsi  
yeh dil mange more  
LOVE is like Sprite  
sirf yeh hi bhujaye pyaas baki sab bakvas  
LOVE is like Asian Paints  
badhiya hai  
LOVE is like Samsung  
everyone is invited  
LOVE is like Bajaj Fan  
sabsey tez  
LOVE is like MTV  
ENJOY!!!!  
- Contributed by Annet Dhvani Jariwala

### ☺ FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS ☺

#### MIMICRY SHOW

The exam fever is almost over and our President has arranged for an excellent meeting this time especially for our annets. Its going to be a Mimicry Show by none other than the famous Mr. Kanvarlal - a popular artist of South Gujarat. He is a well known actor in regional channels like DD Gujarati and has also participated in the famous - "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge" show.

President Divyang has also arranged for a lovely dinner menu - a mix of Chinese and fast food varieties. So please make it on time and don't miss the action. Please also note the change in venue.

Date : 27-9-05 Tuesday

Time : 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Social Welfare Hall-Umra Police Station.