



Mysuru Dasara by - ANNETTE MALAVIKA



President Rtn Rakesh and 'Do Good' Team thought of a unique way to conduct this meeting. Since it coincided with Mysore's DUSERA they invited a Speaker to talk about the above subject in detail. The speaker was none other than our Annette Malavika, daughter of Rtn. Mahesh.

I must say I was awestruck. Never could I imagine that a girl of her age can go into such indepth research. As our President said, usually no one will choose a subject like that. Amazing is her interest. Asked how she had the inclination towards this rare passion. She smiling answered, This credit, I must give to my father. Whenever we used to go out on a holiday, and I used to come across any temple carvings, striking paintings or anything unusual, I would ask my father. He would in turn, request our guide to explain thoroughly, even though he demanded more money. So I am indebted to my father for developing this curiosity in me.

Malavika completed her Degree in Architecture from the University of Mysore. She holds a Master's Degree in Heritage Management from University of Exeter, UK. She is a Heritage Consultant, with over eight years of experience in Architectural Conservation in India.

In Mysore, her landmark projects are restoration of Jagan Mohan Palace and the Residential Wing of the Mysore Palace.

An extremely talented Annette Malavika, has a poise, striking body language and vast knowledge. She kept her tone in a very soothing and pleasant manner.

Such well researched was her entire talk, that the audience sat in absolute attention. Malavika started explaining why the DASARA festivities or as they are called the NAVARATRI falls during this part of the year.

The sun shines on the Tropic of Cancer, thus there's a transition in the weather condition. NAVARATRI, is the worshipping of the NINE AVATARAS, of GODDESS DURGA. These avataras are different forms or incarnations of GODDESS DURGA. Each day is a form which fulfills the DIVINE SHAKTI. The point to be noted is that these various embodiments do not exist on their own but are the incarnations of MAA DURGA. Thus they do not have temples of their own. But each one has a power or SHAKTI, which is according to the need of the hour.

In different parts of India, people celebrate in their unique way. Everyone is in a festive mood. The last day culminates in showcasing the tremendous power of the GODDESS, that is the victory of righteousness over evil.

Mysore also celebrates in pomp and show. JUMBO SAVARI denotes the grand finale of Mysore Dasara festival, which takes place on the Vijaydashami day. A majestic procession of beautifully adorned elephants march through the streets. The most attractive one carries the Ambari, which is

the golden howdah and a symbolic representation of GODDESS CHAMUNDESWARI, accompanied by folk troupes. When the procession ends, the torch-light parade begins. It is believed that the Maharaja doesn't go to witness the touch light parade. During olden days, the king would go to the jungle to hunt for boar. That's why in the painting too, the same is depicted. In between two years, DASARA was not celebrated. Then it became, a public festivity. People from nearby places enjoy to come and watch the lightning, the grandeur, the flower-show, the Exhibition and the merry making. As the saying goes, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die".



The Dasara caps distribution video has gone viral, crossing 22,000 views already!. More about this unique project soon. Thanks project chairman Rtn.Yashwant

My Experience at the RLI Course

For me, one of the biggest realizations was that Rotary knowledge is not merely about organizational structure or procedures, but about becoming stronger, more confident leaders. Listening to fellow Rotarians share their journeys reinforced the power of RLI as a platform for continuous growth and learning.

The discussions covered a wide spectrum - Rotary values, club leadership strategies, engaging members effectively, and planning impactful projects. The interactive format encouraged active participation, making the sessions collaborative and thought-provoking.

Another aspect I deeply valued was the inclusive nature of the program. Whether it was a Rotaractor at

the start of their Rotary journey or a seasoned Rotarian with decades of experience, there was meaningful learning for everyone.

The day wasn't only about structured sessions. Over lunch and refreshments, we had the opportunity to network, share ideas, and build friendships. These informal conversations added warmth and strengthened the sense of Rotary fellowship.

By the end of the day, I felt truly enriched—better equipped with leadership insights and a deeper understanding of how I can contribute meaningfully to Rotary. The RLI is rightly described as essential: it helps new members understand Rotary more deeply, and enables experienced members to refine and strengthen their leadership abilities.

I left the venue with a renewed sense of purpose and gratitude, especially to Rtn. Prakash Belavady, Course Coordinator, and Rtn. Sathisha K S, Chairman of Leadership Learning, for curating such a well-structured and impactful program.

The day was a powerful reminder of Rotary's core spirit—"Service Above Self"—and the importance of continuous learning to serve better. I now look forward to completing Parts Two and Three of the Graduation Course and continuing this journey of growth with Rotary.

- Rtn Padmaja Sastri Muralidhar



Congratulations Annette Saanvi for winning the Dandiaya Night Lucky Draw Prize



3rd Board Meeting held at JWGC on 28th Sept 2025 hosted by Club Service Director Rtn. Nagaraj R

Midtowners wishing Rtn. Manjunath at the inaugural of his new venture & office



Project Week



A lone lady in Mysore with an unsuccessful hip surgery having a daughter studying without any financial resource was supported with Rs. 45000/-

donation from Midtown for her second corrective surgery. She was very thankful for Midtown's support and help. Thank you Rtn. Abhilash Nair for your generous support in contributing Rs. 25000/- towards the needy. May your tribe increase and god bless.

ROTARY NEWS: ROTARY PROJECTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Peru

In the western Amazon, Rotary clubs in the city of Iquitos participated in a seminar in January to learn about the state of the area's schools. Two District 4465 leaders, Doris Alván and Fernando Del Aguila, enlisted a well-known educator in the area, Josefa Ríos Gil, to share with Rotarians what they can do to assist educators. In May, the Rotary Club of Iquitos Amazonas finished one related initiative, a district grant-supported teen empowerment project that taught young people to make earrings sold at eco-lodges near Lake Zungarococha. The club also provided school supplies to primary schools in the area.



United States

Prom is an expensive rite of passage, with purchases of gowns, tuxedos, flowers, meals, and transportation. In New York City, the Rotary Club of North Shore (Staten Island) is helping students through its "Cinderella/Cinderfella" project. The entire 25-member club solicits new and gently used formal attire, some of which is purchased new by Rotarians. In April, students from across the borough are invited to choose from about 200 free dresses and suits, as well as shoes and accessories, so they're ready for prom season. The project was started in 2024 by then-President Suzanne Demetrio and is led by members Stephanie Accardo and Regina Boukhvalova. "We believe no student should miss out due to financial hardship," says Demetrio. "We are giving young people the chance to feel special and confident on one of the biggest nights of their lives."



Next week in Midtown

Rotary Mysore Midtown SVYM Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement

PALLIATIVE CARE CENTER VISIT

SVYM's palliative care program provides free, holistic, and home-based care & institution based care services for the people who are suffering from life limiting disorders and diseases.

- 8TH OCT 2025
- AT SVYM PALLIATIVE CARE CENTER, PKTB CAMPUS, K.R.S.ROAD, MYSORE
- 6.30 PM ONWARDS

UNITE FOR GOOD DO GOOD



Rtn. Francesco Arezzo
President - Rotary International



Rtn. Ramkrishna P K
District Governor RI-3181



Rtn. Rakesh Babu K L
President 2025-26



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