

From the Editor's Desk: Weaving Words, Building Service

~Ann. Jayashree Parasuram



What a Whirlwind, September Has Been!

From the festive joy of **Onam** and the heartfelt gratitude of **Teachers' Day** to the grand success of **Dandiya Darbar 2025**, September was vibrant in every way. Dandiya, an Ann's initiative, was more than a successful **Fundraiser** — it was a lively celebration of fun, food, and fellowship, bringing members and guests closer together.

This milestone month was also the perfect occasion to spotlight the **Anns' Microcredit Program**, now in its **25th year** of empowering families and supporting education.

We proudly inaugurated the First Floor of the **Rtn. Panchapakesan Centenary Block & Skill Development Centre** at TV Nagar School, which will be operational next year — another meaningful step in RCA's journey of service.

Amidst all the celebrations, we were inspired by an insightful session from the **Saisha Foundation**, showcasing their remarkable work in supporting cancer patients.

Happy Reading!!!!



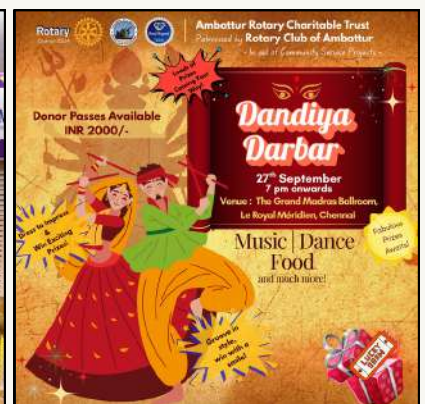
DANDIYA DARBAR – 2025

~Ann. Tamara

"Navratri is not just a festival - it is a reminder that light always triumphs over darkness. It is a time to honour and connect with the divine feminine energy within us and around us."

In the true spirit of **Navratri**, the **Anns of Rotary Club of Ambattur** organized a delightful celebration of dance, music and devotion – **Dandiya Darbar '25 at Le Royal Meridian on the 27th of September**. This flagship annual celebration put together by the Anns with the support of the Rotarians and Annettes, is one of the most eagerly awaited events in the RCA calendar. This year's festivities once again highlighted the Shakti and spirit of the Anns along with Rotary's commitment to fellowship, service and community bonding through culture and celebration.

The atmosphere was alive with laughter, the rhythm of music, the sparkle of tinkling bangles, and the vibrant hues of traditional attire. Guests were welcomed with warmth as the aroma of festive delicacies filled the air. The colourful décor and lively photo booth further enhanced the festive spirit.



The auspicious occasion commenced with a **traditional Pooja**, invoking the blessings of **Goddess Shakthi for prosperity and harmony**. The celebrations were then set in motion with a graceful **Dandiya performance** led by **First Lady Ann Jayashree Parasuram and Ann Jyothi Bhatia**.



The **Madras Hall at Le Royal Meridian** continued to reverberate with rhythm and energy as the **Rotarians, Anns, Annettes and guests** danced to a delightful mix of traditional and cinematic music. The dynamic DJ, the engaging anchor and a professional dance troupe led the audience to the dance floor and ensured that everyone - from the young to the young-at-heart – joined in enthusiastically. The evening's dance segment was thoughtfully divided into three sessions: an hour of Garba, followed by an hour of Dandiya, and concluding with an hour of high-energy cinematic music. Adding to the excitement were the **Ten spot prizes** announced throughout the evening, keeping spirits high. Rotary **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi and District First Lady Usha Saraogi** graced the occasion and joined in the festivities. The esteemed **panel of judges - Ms. Archana, Ms. Sathi Vijayakumar, and Ms. Sudha Sathyan**- had the challenging task of selecting winners across several categories.

Indeed! The highlight of the evening were the exciting prizes: Best Dancer Male, Best Dancer Female, Best Dancing Couple, Best Dressed Couple, Best Dressed Male, Best Dressed Female and prizes for children.



A special mention goes to **Rtn Col. Bhupinder Singh and Ann Mano Singh**, who dazzled in their elegant coordinated attire and won the **Special Prize for the Best Dressed Rotarian Couple**.

The evening concluded on an upbeat note with **Ten lucky attendees winning Lucky Draw Prizes** further adding to the joy and celebration.

The gathering was treated to a sumptuous dinner – a perfect blend of traditional flavours and comforting favourites – which transformed the meal into a celebration of culture and culinary heritage.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to all the **Sponsors** for their valuable support and generous contribution. **Hats off to President Rtn T Parasuram and First Lady Ann Jayashree Parasuram** for spearheading such a memorable event. **Special thanks to all the Anns** for their tireless dedication in planning and executing yet another successful Dandiya Nite.





September Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings



HONOURING MENTORS AND TRADITIONS - A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF TEACHERS' DAY AND ONAM

~ Ann. Aruna Viswanathan

September 5th, 2025, witnessed the unique alignment of the Harvest Festival – Onam, coinciding with Teachers' Day in India. This rare occurrence offered a beautiful opportunity for the Rotary Club of Ambattur to blend two different yet deeply meaningful celebrations – one honoring the Mythical King Mahabali and the bounty of nature, and the other paying tribute to the guiding lights of our lives – our Teachers.

On **7th Sept**, RCA convened at the **PRCC hall at T. Nagar** for a special gathering. All staff members from **TV Nagar School** and the team of teachers from **Neumeyer ASLC** were invited to attend the event. The combined celebration was a tapestry of vibrant colors, joyous tradition and heartfelt gratitude. It reminded everyone that just as a community comes together to celebrate a bountiful harvest, we must come together to honor those who sow the seeds of knowledge and help us reap a harvest of wisdom. **Members of RCA** arrived dressed in rich traditional off white ensembles, reflecting the rich heritage and festive spirit of the occasion. The hall was well decorated with the creation of traditional Pookolams- the intricate floral carpet arranged in vibrant patterns- symbolizing the distinctive trait of Onam. The occasion featured with **Ann Gayathri Arvind** serving as the **Master of Ceremonies**, making a commendable debut in compering. The program commenced with the rendition of **Tamil Thai Vazhu** by **Mrs. Charumathi and Mrs. Selvi**, followed by an **invocation song** gracefully rendered by **Mrs. Subapriya of TV Nagar School**.

President Rtn. T Parasuram welcomed the gathering through a brief yet meaningful speech that resonated with warmth and valuable insights. **Rtn. Hariprasad- Chairman of TV Nagar school** shared a few words and also offered a glimpse into the school's forthcoming activities and initiatives. Later **Rtn. Kavitha** delivered a brief address highlighting the recent developments at Neumeyer ASLC. The teachers of TV Nagar School and Neumeyer ASLC were honored with a **travel bag** generously **sponsored by Rtn. Prem Watwani and Ann Rita Watwani**. Additionally, each teacher received an **electric kettle**, thoughtfully contributed by **14 Anns and Lady Rotarians of our club**.



The eagerly awaited **Onam celebration** was set in motion as **Rtn Gita Menon** took the mic and ignited the festive atmosphere. She provided an insight of Onam's rich historical background of King Mahabali's annual return from underworld to visit his people. Her narration also included the famous Snake boat race- a spectacular event that symbolizes the energy and enthusiasm of the season. With all the members beautifully adorned in their traditional Kerala attire, they were invited to grace the stage for a traditional ramp walk, participating as couples and adding a delightful cultural touch to the celebration.

The **sparkling finale was a delightful surprise!** **Mr. Unni Menon** appearing as the **legendary king Mahabali**, instantly enchanting the audience with his majestic demeanor and warm, gracious smile... The program wrapped up with a warm **vote of thanks** from **Rtn. Suresh Babu**. To conclude the celebration on a truly satisfying note, guests were treated with **Onam Sadhya- a sumptuous traditional feast on nature's tableware - banana leaf** with an authentic spread that tantalized the senses capturing the true spirit of Onam-with every bite whispering the essence of Kerala!! Last but not the least, a heartfelt thanks to **Rtn. Hariprasad** for generously **sponsoring the hall** and to the trustees of PRCC trust for their continued support. A special note of gratitude to our **President Rtn. Parasuram, First Lady Jayashree** for their unwavering leadership. Sincere thanks to **Secretary Rtn Deepan and the board** for their meticulous arrangements and for ensuring seamless execution of the program.



Here's to many more vibrant celebrations, cherished memories, more camaraderie for a lasting impact.

September Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings

Inauguration of the First Floor – Rtn. Panchapakesan Centenary Block & Skill Development Centre, TV Nagar School, Ambattur, Chennai

~Rtn. T Parasuram

On **September 16th 2025**, the **Rotary Club of Ambattur** reached a **major milestone** with the inauguration of the first floor of the **Rtn. Panchapakesan Centenary Block**, a **10,000 sq. ft. modern facility** that will also house a **Vocational Skill Development Centre** for youth and women.

The project, seeded two years ago with **CSR contributions** from **M/s ATOS (Rs. 30 Lakhs)** and **M/s Heat & Control (Rs. 10 Lakhs)**, has now taken shape as a larger initiative. The 1st Floor was inaugurated by **Mr. Michael Kollar, Global Head of Cloud & Modern Infra Business Unit, Atos**, in the presence of Rotarians and Atos representatives from across India.

The dignitaries were shown around the school; they went through **the Science lab, the Genie lab, the STEM lab, and the Computer lab**. They also saw a couple of **classrooms with smart boards**. They were impressed with the experiments shown by the students and asked them several questions.

After the ceremonial inauguration, done by Mr. Michael Kollar, the gathering was welcomed by **Rtn. Parasuram, the President of the Rotary Club of Ambattur**. He discussed the history of the club and mentioned how the Stalwarts of the club initiated these major projects. He paid tribute to **Rtn. Panch, Rtn. Thiru, Rtn. Kalro & Rtn. Vasu Bhatia**, who initiated & helped sustain these projects through the nascent stages. He also mentioned that the next generation took it to greater heights, and this is the result of their efforts.

Rtn Hariprasad, the Correspondent of the school, informed the gathering on the history of the school and its functioning.

The event also saw the felicitation of the representatives of ATOS, the contractor, and the school's Admin Head, **Ms. Meenal**.

There was a wonderful cultural program presented by the students of the TV Nagar school.

Mr. Michael Kollar & Mr. Sriram, in their addresses, were all praise for the school and especially the students. He wanted us to start a course on coding for the students.

The **Centenary Block is expected to be finished by December** & will comprise a **stilt + 3 floors**, where the stilt will have the offices.

The Meeting ended with a **Vote of thanks by Mr. Prashanth**. It was followed by a sumptuous lunch.



September Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings

Ayappakam After School Learning Centre - “Say No to Drugs” Walkathon

~Rtn. Kavithaa Narasimhan

The **RCA After School Learning Centre, Ayappakam** in association with **New Chance Rehabilitation Centre**, organized a “Say NO to Drugs” Walkathon on **September 21st 2025**, to spread awareness on the harmful effects of drug use and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Students collected information on drug abuse among youth and shared strategies for prevention. The walk covered **1.7 km from the Centre to Kanopus Park**, with participants proudly carrying **handmade posters and banners**. The program also featured motivational talks, student presentations, a pledge, and cultural celebrations.

Our **Chief Guest, Mr. R. Rathish, Founder of New Chance**, along with his team, addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights from his experiences.



September 16th 2025 - Speaker Meeting

~ Ann. Jayashree Parasuram

The meeting commenced with **President Rtn. T. Parasuram** warmly welcoming the gathering.

Our speaker for the week was **Ms. Srividya Gopinath** from the **Saisha India Foundation**, founded by **Ms. Jayshree Ratan**, inspired by a relative's journey with breast cancer.

Ms. Srividya introduced us to the Foundation's remarkable initiatives — crafting crocheted breast prostheses (fondly called “Knockers”) for women who have undergone mastectomy, and soft beanies for children under 12 undergoing chemotherapy.

These handmade prostheses and beanies, lovingly created by skilled volunteers who are avid crocheters and knitters, are provided free of cost to beneficiaries — restoring comfort, confidence, and dignity.

She also shared about their upcoming project, “Octopus”, specially designed for neonatal wards.

♥ Impact so far (till August 2025):

- **Beanies distributed – 2,925**
- **Knockers distributed – 25,103**

It was a truly moving and inspirational session — a reminder of how compassion, when woven into every stitch, can transform lives.



Attendees: 25
Rtn:11 | Ann-6 | Guest,Rtr :8

25 Years of RCA Microcredit – A Legacy of Compassion

~Ann. Tara Rao

RCA already had the Rotary Hospital, TV Nagar School, and SCAW as its long-term service projects. Our signature fundraiser *Dandiya* had just been launched a year earlier and was quickly gaining strength. The Anns of RCA, always working shoulder to shoulder with Rotarians in every initiative, longed for a project that they could call their very own. To fill this need, the *Microcredit Project* was initiated in 1999–2000, during the presidency of Rtn. Satyan Bhatt.

The initiative was led by Ann Parul Bhatt, who provided the seed capital with the support of a few RCA Rotarians, notably Rtn. Ajit Patel. A small contribution from *Dandiya* was also added. And thus, the microcredit project was born — a project that went on to touch countless underprivileged and needy families.

The microcredit project has touched **countless underprivileged families**. It began by funding small livelihoods — an idli cart, ironing boxes, sewing machines, and other basic tools. Over time, its scope expanded to cover tuition fees, two-wheelers for commuting, house repairs during the Varadha floods, and even funeral expenses. Today, it is most often used to support education, helping parents pay school and college fees for their children.

In its early days, recipients would attend RCA speaker meetings to receive their cheques or in-kind assistance. A memorable moment was when ace cricketer Krishnamachari Srikanth handed over sewing machines, leaving the beneficiaries both awestruck and overjoyed. These occasions also allowed RCA members to witness first-hand the impact of the project.

Now, as we step into the **25th year of microcredit**, let us reflect on its journey. While the project is under the banner of RCA, the responsibility of finances, selection of recipients, and record maintenance lies with two Ann signatories. At the close of every Rotary year, accounts are carefully prepared, verified, and handed over to the incoming President and First Lady. These are also shared transparently with all Anns on the RCA and the Anns WhatsApp group.

When the project began, it was managed by Ann Saraswathi Ramdas and Ann Renuka Sasi Kumar. After Ann Saraswathi stepped down, Ann Tara Rao took over and has now been managing it with dedication for nearly 18 years. Following Ann Renuka's resignation, Ann Mala joined five years ago. Today, **Ann. Tara and Ann. Mala** continues to carry forward this responsibility with the same commitment.

To date, the microcredit project has supported about **1,100 recipients**, with nearly **₹8 lakhs in circulation**. These are completely *interest-free loans*, extended to deserving candidates recommended by an Ann or Rotarian, who also stand as guarantors to ensure timely repayments. Remarkably, in 25 years, there have been *no bad debts*.

For all of us who have been associated with microcredit, it has been a deeply rewarding experience. As the saying goes: *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* This truth has been lived not only by Saraswathi, Renuka, Tara, and Mala, but also by every Ann and Rotarian who took the effort to recommend and support a needy family.

Let us continue to be a source of hope for those in need, comfort for the lonely, and gratitude for the opportunity to serve through Rotary.

Ann's Meet - September 20th 2025

~Rtn. Gita Menon

The second **Ann's meet** of this year was held on **20th September 2025** at the Upper Deck in The Gymkhana Club. It was hosted by our **First Lady, Ann Jayashree Parasuram**. Jayashree was there, her charming self, welcoming all the Anns. We were all welcomed with a refreshing watermelon juice, followed by some tasty snacks.

The focus of this Ann's meet was the Dandiya. A choreographer had been organized to show us ladies some basic movements for the Dandiya. **Ranjini, the young choreographer**, taught us step by step to dance to a very lively song. She had a lot of patience with us ladies. This practice was going to culminate at the Dandiya with an exclusive performance by the ladies of RCA. By the end of the practice, we all felt we had learnt something and had the confidence to perform at The Dandiya on 27th September. A video recording of the dance by **Ann Jyothi Bhatia and Ranjini, the choreographer**, was taken. This was later posted on Ann's group for all the Anns (even for those who could not make it), to practice by themselves so that the ladies of RCA will steal the show on The Dandiya night with their twists and moves!!

At the end of the practice session, we were all treated to a sumptuous and tasty lunch.

It was a well-organized Ann's meet by our **First Lady Ann. Jayashree Parasuram**, as always.



From Life's First Cheers to Forever Together Celebrating You Always!

Birthdays

October 03	Ann Asha Sridharan	P Sridharan
October 07	Annette Nagapooja Omprakash	S L Omprakash
October 15	Annette Vallabh	V R Janardhanam
October 16	Ann. G Gayathri	G Aravind
October 16	Annette M Vishal	M Viswanathan
October 16	Rtn. Harish Gokul Dass	
October 19	Annette Neha Singh	Col. Bhupinder Singh
October 23	Mr. Sivasubramanian T K	Kavithaa Narasimhan
October 24	Annette Dr. Aishwarya	P N Ramachandran
October 24	Annette Dr. Adrian	Dr. Winston Noronha
October 26	Rtn. Sudarshankrishna	
October 28	Ann Jyoti Bhatia	Upendhra Bhatia
October 29	Ann Jeevitha Harikrishnan	Harikrishnan D

Anniversary

October 19	Rtn. V R Janardhanam & Vijaya
October 19	Rtn. GVRs. Sarma & Lata Sarma
October 27	Rtn. Deepan P & Uma Sankar

Mark your Calendar! - Upcoming Events

Oct 14
(Tues)
6.30 p.m

Dandiya Reflections
followed by
Tambola
(Dinner)
Diamond Hall, The
Presidency Club, Egmore

Oct 21
(Tues)

No Meeting

Oct 25
(Sat)
7.00 p.m

Diwali Utsav
2025
(Invite to follow)

Backing Dreams, Building Changes Because of You, AMBER shines in print.

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Team Members : Annette Apoorva, Ann. Aruna V, Rtn. Gita Menon, Ann. Tamara

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Whatsapp number : +91-9884044727