



AMBER



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

~Ann. Jayashree Parasuram



March has truly been a month of **Bond Beyond**, going beyond the showcasing of our flagship projects. It is a month every Rotarian and Ann eagerly looks forward to and prepares for—the much-anticipated **District Governor's Official Visit**, when the club's activities come under review (**and yes, it does feel a bit like exam season all over again!**).

We are happy to share that the results were, without doubt, something to gloat about. The month began with the Anns' Women and Girls Empowerment Initiative, followed by joyful fellowship gatherings, public health camps, participation in PELS at Rajasthan, an engaging speaker meeting with an International Cricket Umpire, and, of course, the Governor's Official Visit.

RCAians, you rock!

Enjoy reading about all the memorable moments from this vibrant month.

District Governor's Official Visit March 10th 2026

The morning of **10th March 2026** began at the residence of **President Rtn. T. Parasuram and First Lady Ann. Jayashree Parasuram**, who graciously hosted **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi, District Secretary Rtn. Saptagiri, and our Club Secretary, Rtn. P. Deepan** for a *scrumptious South Indian breakfast* prepared by First Lady Ann. Jayashree Parasuram. **First Lady Ann. Usha Saraogi** was deeply missed, but due to prior commitments, she was unable to join.



Known for his punctuality and disciplined approach, **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** ensured that the day's schedule progressed smoothly and efficiently, enabling the team to successfully cover all of our flagship projects spread across Chennai well within the allotted time before proceeding to the Club Assembly at the Ambattur Rotary Hospital. His systematic coordination and keen interest in each activity helped maintain both momentum and purpose throughout the visit.

The first stop was the **Ayappakkam Neumeyer After School Learning Center**, where the District Governor and District Secretary were joined by **Assistant Governor Rtn. Uma Maheswari and Regional Secretary Rtn. Sankaran Perumal**. They had the opportunity to witness first-hand the meaningful services rendered by the club in supporting children's education and development. The district officials interacted warmly and enthusiastically with the Pathshala students, encouraging them and appreciating their participation in the learning programmes. **Ms. Kasturi** provided a detailed overview of the various academic and enrichment activities conducted at the centre and highlighted the positive impact the initiative continues to make in the community.



The next stop on the schedule was the **T.V. Nagar Educational Society School, Ambattur**, where **District Governor Vinod Saraogi** paid homage by **garlanding the bust of Rtn. Panchapakesan**, acknowledging his enduring contribution and legacy associated with the institution. This respectful gesture set a meaningful tone for the visit before the district officials proceeded on a comprehensive tour of the school campus. During the **walkthrough**, the district officials visited the classrooms, science laboratory, and the site of the upcoming Vocational Services Building, appreciating the school's efforts toward strengthening infrastructure and promoting skill-based education. A detailed overview was given by the **School Correspondent Rtn. PP Hariprasad**. They also interacted with the 10th standard students appearing for their board examinations and encouraged them while acknowledging the dedication of the teachers. **Rtn. P. Deepan** generously donated **10 revolving chairs** to the school and the Ayappakkam After School Learning Center, supporting improved learning facilities.

After touring the **Rtn. Panchapakesan Skill Development Center**, which was appreciated by one and all, **Rtn. PP Hariprasad** presented mementos to **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** and **District Secretary Rtn. Saptagiri**.



The final stop of the morning was the **Ambattur Rotary Hospital**, where **District Governor Vinod Saraogi and the district officials** toured the hospital premises. This was followed by the **Club Assembly** held in the hospital conference room in the presence of **President T. Parasuram, his Board members and other Rotarians**.

During the assembly, **Club Secretary P. Deepan** presented a detailed report on the club's activities over the past eight months. The District Governor and district officials then engaged in a meaningful discussion with the members on the various initiatives and projects undertaken by the club, appreciating their impact and progress.



District Governor's Official Visit - Evening

~ Ann. Aruna Viswanathan

This year, **2026**, the Governor's official visit to the Rotary Club of Ambattur was a happy event, marked by great warmth, enthusiasm, and fellowship at the **Madras Cricket Club-Chepauk**. Rotarians with their spouses assembled well ahead of time, reflecting their eagerness to welcome the District leadership.

The evening commenced gracefully with **Rtn. Gita Menon**, the **Master of Ceremonies**, extending a cordial welcome to the gathering and announced to members and guests to take their seats. The proceedings formally began with the **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** being collared by the Governor's aide, followed by **President Rtn. T Parasuram** being ceremonially **collared by PP Rtn. Ravishankar**, symbolizing the leadership and responsibilities entrusted to him. The traditional **lighting of the Kuthuvillaku**, expressing the triumph of knowledge and service, was performed by **Ann. Anandhi Saptagiri, First Lady Ann. Jayashree Parasuram, Ann. Uma Deepan, Ann. Surekha Suresh, Ann. Dr. Veena, Rtn. Ajitha Balan and Rtn. Vasanthi**. The ambience then turned solemn and dignified with a melodious **invocation** rendered by **Ann Vijayalakshmi Sairam**, followed by the National Anthem and Tamil Thaaai Vaazhthu, setting a respectful and patriotic start tone for the evening.

President Rtn. Parasuram, in his **welcome address**, greeted the District Governor, district officials, and fellow Rotarians and families, expressing the club's pride and joy in hosting this significant occasion.

Rtn. Deepan presented the **Secretary's Report** and captivated the audience with a vibrant and visually engaging presentation. He highlighted the club's dynamic calendar of activities, including numerous speaker meetings, dinner and fellowship gatherings, and board meetings, as well as the resounding success of the club's spectacular fundraiser – Dandiya. He further showcased the club's flagship service initiatives that continue to make a meaningful impact in the community, namely Ambattur Rotary Hospital, TV Nagar Educational Society school, Neumeyar Ayapakkam After School Learning Centre, and Sleeping Children Around the World.

The **Ann's Report** was eloquently presented by **First Lady Ann. Jayashree Parasuram**, who highlighted the thoughtful and compassionate initiatives undertaken by the Ann's group. Among them were the installation of a water dispenser at Prem Vihar Orphanage at the Lady Andal premises, the distribution of bicycles to ten deserving girl students, and a delightful fellowship retreat for Anns and Lady Rotarians at Atulya Farms, strengthening camaraderie within the Rotary family. She made a special mention of the microcredit managed by Ann's over the past 25 years, highlighting its strong track record with zero bad debts.





One of the cherished moments of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious **Paul Harris Fellow (PHF)** recognition to **Ms. Meenal Subbiah and Mr. Mahesh Chokkalingam**, conferred by **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi**, in recognition of their commitment to Rotary's ideals.

Cheques towards **new PHF contributions** were also presented to **District Secretary PP Rtn. Saptagiri** on behalf of **Rtn. Jagadeesh, Rtn. Deepan, Rtn. Kavitha, and Rtn. Aravind**, reflecting the club's continued support for the Rotary Foundation.

The program continued with the introduction of the **club's newest member, Architect Rtn. Anuradha Shivakumar**, by **PP Rtn. Hariprasad**. She was formally inducted into the Rotary family by **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** marking a proud moment for the club as it welcomed another committed professional into its fold.

The gathering was then privileged to hear the very **informal introduction of District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** by his co-president (2006-07) **Rtn. Om Prakash**.

In his inspiring address, **District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi** applauded the Rotary Club of Ambattur for its impactful service projects and encouraged other clubs to collaborate and join hands in these meaningful initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of strengthening membership, urging Rotarians to bring more committed individuals into the Rotary movement to expand its reach and impact.

Rtn. Flt. Lt. Rtn. Ramesh delivered a fantastic **Vote of Thanks** in his own distinctive style—concise, sincere, and well-structured. He thoughtfully acknowledged the District Governor, other district dignitaries, fellow Rotarians, Anns, Rotaractors, and all the invited guests, bringing the event to a graceful and memorable close.

The **meeting** was formally **adjourned by President Rtn. Parasuram**, bringing to a close a memorable and inspiring Governor's Official Visit. The evening concluded with a group photograph featuring the District officials and members of the Rotary Club of Ambattur, capturing the spirit of camaraderie and shared commitment to service. The formal proceedings were followed by warm fellowship, where members and guests interacted with the District officials in an atmosphere of camaraderie and goodwill. The gathering then moved on to enjoy a sumptuous dinner, providing the perfect setting for meaningful conversations, renewed friendships, and strengthening the bonds that unite the Rotary family.

March Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings at ARH

ARH successfully organised **4 public health camps** this month at **Greater Chennai Corporation Park** on **07th March**, **Officer Colony Park** on **14th March**, **Mogappair West Park** on **21st March**, and **Veeramamunivar Park** on **28th March** in association with the **Tanker Dialysis Unit**, intending to promote preventive healthcare and encourage early disease detection within the community. The initiative was felicitated by **Rtn. Udaya Bhanu, Chairman – ARH and Director – Community Services (Health)**

These camps were designed to provide accessible and affordable medical services to residents. A dedicated team of qualified doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals carried out general health check-ups, which included pulse rate monitoring, blood pressure (BP) measurement, blood sugar testing, and weight assessment, along with personalized doctor consultations.

All the camps witnessed good participation from the public and served as an effective platform to create awareness about the importance of regular health screening and early diagnosis.



A **Mental Health Wellness Camp** was successfully conducted on **17th March**, from **9:30 AM to 4:30 PM** at **Ambattur Rotary Hospital**, with **21 participants** attending individual counseling sessions handled by three counselors, each lasting 30–45 minutes.

The **inaugural session** (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM) was addressed by **Dr. Susan Verghese, Chairman of Hindustan College of Arts & Science**, in the presence of **other participating club presidents**. The session highlighted the importance of mental health as equal to physical health and covered key topics such as stress, anxiety, depression, and simple coping strategies. Participants were guided on recognizing early warning signs of mental distress and understanding when to seek help.

The camp witnessed active participation and positive engagement from attendees. It helped create awareness, reduce stigma around mental health, and equip participants with practical strategies for well-being. The encouraging feedback received from participants reflected the overall success and impact of the program.



March Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings

Ambattur Rotary Hospital Feedback

~Rtn. Ajit Nair.



I did my Master Health Check at Rotary Ambattur Hospital today. Absolutely efficient, professional, and seamless experience.

The medical team was courteous and systematic. Why go to expensive commercial hospitals when we have such quality healthcare within our Rotary family.

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Rtn. Udayabhama, Chairman - ARH | Director - Community Services - Health
Rtn. Parasuram T, President - Rotary Club of Ambattur
Rtn. Deepan P, Secretary - Rotary Club of Ambattur

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4th March - Rtn. Jayakumar's Son's - Reception RK Convention Center, Neelankarai, ECR



The **Anns** met on **Tuesday afternoon, 17th March, at Krishna Hall, New Woodlands, Mylapore** (venue courtesy **Rtn. Sairam**) for a warm and enjoyable fellowship gathering. Though the hall was compact, it comfortably accommodated the **17 members** who attended. The Anns had a wonderful time interacting with First Lady Ann Jayashree Parasuram. It was also lovely to have Annette Gayathri, daughter-in-law of Hema Jayakumar, join the gathering. The afternoon featured excellent food, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, making it a delightful and memorable meet. **~Ann. Mala**



March Journeys: Club Highlights & Happenings

On **2nd March**, the **Ann**s launched the **Women and Girls Empowerment Initiative**, supported by a small allocation of funds raised through Dandiya Darbar. In collaboration with the **District's Gift of Mobility Project**, **bicycles** were distributed to **10 girl students**, helping improve their access to education and daily commute.



March 31st 2026 - Speaker Meeting

~ *Ann. Jayashree Parasuram*

Howzat!!! Umpires - The Third Team on the Field

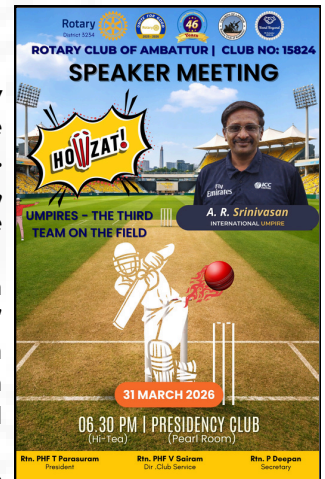
The **Weekly Speaker Meeting** was held on **31st March** at the **Pearl Room, Presidency Club**, featuring **International Umpire Mr. A. R. Srinivasan** as the **guest speaker** for the evening. The program began with the **collaring of President Rtn. T. Parasuram** by **Rtn. PP M. Viswanathan**, followed by a **1-minute silence** in memory of **Ann. Gunasundari**, who passed away on **March 21st**. **Rtn. M. Viswanathan** introduced a prospective member, **Dr. P. Ravikumar**.

Rtn. T Parasuram introduced the speaker, after which **A. R. Srinivasan** delivered an engaging and insightful talk on the theme **"Umpires—The Third Team on the Field,"** which kept the audience captivated for 1.5 hours. He explained how umpires play a crucial role in ensuring fairness, discipline, and adherence to the laws of the game, often making split-second decisions under intense pressure while remaining calm and impartial.

He highlighted the essential qualities required to become a successful umpire—deep knowledge of the laws of cricket, sharp observation skills, physical fitness, strong concentration, confidence in decision-making, and the ability to remain unbiased at all times. He also spoke about the importance of teamwork between on-field umpires, third umpires, and match referees in maintaining the integrity of the game.

Drawing from his own experiences, he shared interesting on-field incidents and challenges faced during matches, including handling appeals, managing player emotions, and adapting to changing match situations. He also touched upon the growing role of technology, such as the Decision Review System (DRS), in supporting umpires while emphasizing that human judgment continues to remain central to the spirit of the game.

The session was highly informative and engaging, giving members a deeper appreciation of the responsibility, discipline, and professionalism required of umpires—the truly vital "third team" that keeps the game fair and flowing smoothly. The **Vote of Thanks** was given by **Rtn. Dr. Winston**. Members also celebrated the **President's birthday (30th March)** with a **surprise cake-cutting**, adding warmth and cheer to the occasion.



March 20th 2026 - PELS 2026-27 at Udaipur, Rajasthan

~Inputs by Rtn. Vasanthi

A sizable **21 participants** from **RC Ambattur** joined a 200-member contingent at **PELS 2026-27, Rajasthan** for an unforgettable experience. Under the leadership of **PELS Chairman Rtn. Ravishankar**, ably supported by **Rtn. Sambasiva** and other Rotarians, the program combined learning, fellowship, and warm hospitality.

DGE Rtn. Suresh Jain, the driving force behind PELS 2026-27, ensured every detail—from the stay to the food—was impeccably arranged. Yet learning remained the priority, with inspiring talks and small group discussions that encouraged collaboration and growth.

With participants ranging from **2 to 70+**, PELS Rajasthan left a lasting impression, seamlessly blending education, camaraderie, and fun while setting a high standard for future programs.

The graduation procession on **21st March**, with traditional turbans and Tulsī malas, ended in joyful celebration and dance. Participants explored Udaipur's palaces and temples, enjoyed guided historical tours, and experienced fun rides on buggies, jeeps, and camels.



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Birthdays

April 03	Annette Adhil Shetty	Jai Shetty
April 06	Annette Tarun Kumar	Jayakumar
April 07	Ann. Hema Jayakumar	Jayakumar
April 12	Rtn. P N Ramachandran	
April 12	Ann. Rajeswari	Vijayakumaran V
April 14	Annette Sandeep Watwani	Prem Watwani
April 21	Annette Ramraj	V Sairam
April 23	Rtn. Col. Bhupinder Singh	
April 27	Annette Apoorva Parasuram	T Parasuram
April 30	Ann Malathy (Mala)	P N Ramachandran
April 30	Annette Dhruv	Deepan P

Anniversary

April 05 Rtn. Col. Bhupinder Singh & Mano Singh

Mark your Calendar! -
Upcoming Events

April 07
(Tues)
(Hi-Tea)

Speaker Meeting
Ms. Kamala Selvam
Vedic Astrology
(Invite to follow)
Pearl Room, Presidency Club

The schedule for upcoming meetings
will be announced soon.

Obituary



Rotary Club of Ambattur records with deep sorrow the sudden demise of **Ann. Gunasundari**, beloved wife of **Rtn. Mahaveerchand Dugar**, on **March 21**. Amber extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

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

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GKS ASSOCIATES

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