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# WALTAIR TIMES

Vol. 25 | Issue 7 | November 2021





## From the President's Desk



Dear members,

Greetings to you all !

At the outset, I would like to thank all the members of the Club for giving me an opportunity to serve as the Honorary President for the term 2020-21. Covid 19 has thrown another challenge at all of us in the form of second wave that caused huge grief. Despite the challenging situation, I along with the members of Managing Committee gave our best to serve the members.

Events like Dasara and New Year Celebrations showered a spell of relief on the members during the distressed period of Covid. Etikoppaka Toys exhibition was also well attended and appreciated. Inauguration of Golf Arena was like a feather in the Cap of the Sports facilities offered at the Club. Launching of the Coffee Table Book 'The Waltair Club Saga' was the highlight of the year. I sincerely appreciate the Editor Dr.Hema Yadavalli and her team for their industrious effort in bringing out the master piece. I am thankful to the Past President Justice Somayajulu, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh and Ms.Manasa Varanasi, Femina Miss India World for gracing the occasion.

As the members are aware, we are attending the legal matter of Waltair Club earnestly to safeguard the interests of the Club. Due to the restriction imposed by the Government in view of Covid-19, Club elections had to be postponed. As the elections are round the corner, I convey my best wishes to the incoming team. I thank all the Managing Committee Members for their support during my tenure. My special thanks to the staff of the Club who have relentlessly worked during the difficult times of Covid. Finally I thank the Land Committee for their efforts and services. I thank all the members of the Club for being co-operative during this tenure.

Best Wishes !

**P.Phaneendra Babu**

MANAGING COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE MEMBERS		EDITORIAL BOARD
President <b>Mr.P.Phaneendra Babu</b> P-88 7997488488	Sports <b>Mr. Jasti Srikanth</b> S-819 9848015757	Bar <b>Mr.G.Sivaji</b> S-526 9866113311	Chairman <b>Mr. M.A.Murale</b> M-115
Vice-President <b>Mr.M.A.Murale</b> M-115 9848146580	General Services <b>Mr. Vijaya Mohan Talasila</b> V-254 9440190111	Library, Chamber & Erp <b>Mr. Jogendra Suryadevara</b> J-064 9177971799	Editor <b>Dr. Hema Yadavalli</b> H-22
Hon. Secretary <b>Mr.V.Seetharamaiah</b> S-225 9849691188	Entertainment <b>Mr.V.K.Visweswara Rao</b> V-101 9908849999	Senior Citizens Committee <b>Mr.D.Rajagopala Reddy</b> R-065 9440327050	Members <b>Dr. Padma Murale</b> M-115 <b>Mr. S.V.Chalam</b> C-56 <b>Mrs. Shanti Chitra</b> C-46 <b>Mrs. Abignya Grandhi</b> R-510 <b>Miss. Yogita Yerra</b> S-1015
Hon. Treasurer <b>Mr.D.Srinivas</b> S-430 9849114535	Catering <b>Mr.T.Rajesh Kumar</b> R-383 9848755599	Ladies Sub-Committee <b>Miss.Ch.Bhavya</b> B-138 9866128900	





## Vice President's Message

Dear Members,

It has indeed been a privilege to serve you all as the Vice President of the elite and prestigious Waltair Club, which has a history that goes back over more than a century. I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude and thanks to all the members of our Club, for giving me this honourable position on the Executive body of the Club and an opportunity to be at the helm of matters. It has been my endeavour to serve you all to the best of my ability, as the Club negotiated its way through the grim pandemic and the troubled times it brought in its wake.

I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Editor and all the members of the Editorial board for the excellent reading quality of Waltair Times. As the Managing Committee for 2020-21 comes to the end of its term, all the Committee members and I take great pride in presenting to you the updated Members Directory and the first ever Waltair Club Coffee Table Book.

My good wishes and warm regards to all my fellow members of Waltair Club,

**M.A.Murale**

### EDITORIAL BOARD

#### Chairman

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#### Editor

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#### Members

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Mr. S.V.Chalam +91 8527053456

Mrs. Shanti Chitra +91 7382621218

Mrs. Abignya Grandhi +91 9490961060

Miss. Yogita Yerra +91 7382191316

## Hon. Secretary's Message

I wish to express my gratitude to the members of the Club for giving me an opportunity to serve as the Honorary Secretary of the Club during 2020-21. Though the Club has witnessed many ups and downs during this period, we have tried our best to keep the momentum going. This year has left us with mixed memories due to Covid. It was a great experience being a part of the Managing Committee 2020-21. My long term desire to have an app for Waltair Club has been finally fulfilled. I sincerely hope that we will soon recover fully from the Pandemic and have happy times again. I also wish that the Club would overcome all the other challenges that are being faced. My best wishes to the incoming team.

Best Regards !

**V. Seetharamaiah**



## From the Editor's Desk

Dear members,

As the editor of Waltair Times, this year has been an easy ride because of the great support offered by the members of Editorial Board - Dr. Padma Murale, Mr. S.V.Chalam, Mrs. Shanti Chitra, Mrs. Abignya Grandhi & Miss. Yogita Yerra. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them. I sincerely thank Mr M A Murale, Vice President of the Club for having trust and giving me the responsibility of Editorship. I wish to thank the members of Managing Committee also for their unconditional support. My best wishes to all the members of the Club and looking forward to joyful times again by overcoming the pandemic.

Best regards

**Dr. Hema Yadavalli**

# Committee members' Reports

## SPORTS COMMITTEE



Thank You President, Secretary and all the Committee Members for all your Support and encouraging me to give the best of my services to the Prestigious Waltair Club. I personally thank my family members and good friends for giving me moral and financial support,

for this helped me to come with unique ideas to develop and encourage sports activities and infrastructure to the best.

Here is a glimpse of works activities done during my tenure for 20-21 as the Chairman of Sports Committee.

1. Yoga hall sunlight rollers
2. Cricket ground levelling
3. Cricket pitch (cement wicket)
4. Cricket ground lighting
5. Developed a new Throw Ball court beside Volley Ball court
6. New fencing for Throw Ball & Volley Ball court
7. Total Gym repair & maintenance work for men & women Brought a new LED TV for women's gym
8. Gym window repair works
9. Partially equipped Gym with New Equipment
10. Walking track lighting

11. Swimming pool washrooms renovations
12. Tennis court walls painting (green colour)
13. Tennis court refreshment room renovation including washroom
14. Developed and inaugurated Golf arena
15. Partly developed coconut groves for Sports Bar
16. Developed new Basketball court with good infrastructure and lighting
17. Developed 8 sand walk
18. Snookers & Billiards rooms laid a new carpet
19. Conducted Champions Sports Carnival in February for 21 days, 1450 registrations were done
20. Celebrated prize distribution event with a huge gathering & presented 1200 trophies & shields for the players
21. Distributed T-Shirts and Track suits to all Sports and Game supporting Staff
22. Conducted Waltair Club Golf cup at EPGC after a gap of two years
23. Prize distribution for Golf Cup along with cocktail dinner with families
24. Organised the first time ever President Cup for Cricket and Volley Ball in the history of Waltair Club
25. Two silver trophies (rolling cup) were presented to the captains of the teams by the Chief Guests at Coffee Table Book Launch

**Jasti Srikanth**

## GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The historic Bandstand has been given a great facelift with new flooring. A new Gazebo has been made at the north end that would become the favourite party place for the club members.

With the support of the chairman of Sports Committee, a beautiful Golf Arena has been made that added great value to the sports facilities offered in Club. Golf enthusiasts have started using the facility well. We are happy to share that this Golf Arena has been developed totally by the generous contributions made by some of the members and we extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their unconditional support.

Distribution of vegetables and ration to the club staff was taken up during lockdown.

We are very thankful to all the members of the Club for their patience and support throughout this tough time of pandemic.

**Vijaya Mohan Talasila**



## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The Entertainment Committee for the year 2020-2021 has conducted many exciting and interesting programs, catering to the interests of all the members of the Club. Festivals like Dussehra Mahotsav, Diwali & Chocolate X-Mas Party were celebrated with Devotion & Enthusiasm alike. Children's Day Little Patakas, Senior Citizens Meet, Super Bumper Tambola, New Year's Eve, Republic Day Flag Hoisting, Sunday Bazaar and Sonet Spring Spin Tambola were some of the Notable Events conducted during this period. It was also evident that many latest movies were screened for the amusement of the members. The most remarkable of all was the "Sonet Spring Tambola", where a Kia Sonet Car was awarded as the Grand Prize. It had a huge turnout and the members had a really good time. Overall, it was one enthralling & successful year, diverting us all from the horridness of the pandemic; thanks to the Managing committee, Sub-committee and staff's efforts in conducting all the events in a safe manner, following the COVID protocols and ensuring everyone's safety.

**V.K.Visweswara Rao**



## RESTAURANT AND CATERING COMMITTEE

To enhance the capacity and capability of the kitchen, new equipment such as refrigerators, grinders and utensils were purchased. Maintenance and repairs of the kitchen Blower and Stoves was carried out. New cooks were hired to oversee the preparation of menu items. The menu was expanded both in vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Healthy foods such as fruits and sprouts were added to Shells breakfast menu.

The Sunday Brunch, a first of its kind was introduced during the winter months at the club. It was an instant success and was appreciated by the members and generated high sales for the club. The Saturday night tiffins was introduced and this too was well received by the Members. An Executive Chef was hired to introduce and oversee new items on the menu, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian. Catering for parties and events has also increased this year fetching good revenues for the Club. Suppliers were evaluated and some were changed to get better pricing, quality and variety in products as cost control measures.

Efforts were made to manage the food preparation with the significant variation of food items during Covid-19, coupled with low sales. Due to huge price increases, the menu prices had to be increased to avoid financial strain for the Club. Once the prices were back to normal levels, the menu prices have been dropped back down to original levels. We thank the members for their understanding and co-operation during the price increase.

Members provided constant inputs to help us improve the menu items, their taste and quality, which we appreciate and are grateful to them. The kitchen staff has done an excellent job in managing, preparing and serving a variety of delectable food items for the Members to enjoy. Our thanks to all the staff members.

**T. Rajesh Kumar**

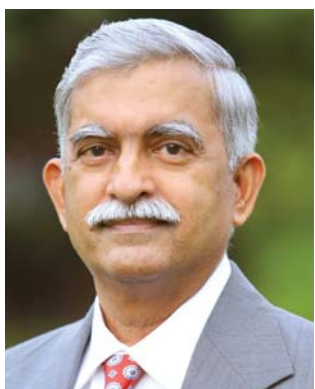


## BAR COMMITTEE

Dear fellow members,

Greetings to all of you from the bar committee. As you know it has been an extremely challenging year due to lockdowns and restricted timings for the Club and bar for a good part of this year. The upward price revision by the government also did not help our cause. In spite of the tough situation, we thank our esteemed members for the continued patronage of the bar and support extended.

**G . Sivaji**



## CHAMBERS, LIBRARY AND ERP COMMITTEE

### CHAMBERS

The lobby of the Chambers has been given a facelift with furniture polishing and staircase painting. Old linen, mattresses and drapery was disposed of and new, better-quality linen was purchased. Plumbing, electrical, air conditioner and TV maintenance in the rooms was done and new fixtures were installed wherever necessary. New cutlery, chafing dishes and plate warmer have been purchased for Shells Dining Room. Lighting in the dining area was enhanced with new light fittings.

Due to the second wave of Covid-19 the Chambers has remained closed for several weeks and the opportunity was used to carry out some maintenance. Once it was reopened, guests started using the rooms once again and the occupancy has been steadily increasing and it stands at a healthy level at present. In keeping with MHA guidelines and taking precautionary measures, we have introduced room sanitization procedures with fog machine and are providing guests with sanitizers in each of the rooms.

### LIBRARY

Library was upgraded with new brighter ceiling lighting for a better reading experience for Members. An additional Book Rack was constructed for magazines in the Children's section. New books and novels have been purchased along with subscriptions for new magazines of interest to Members. An automated hand sanitizer was installed for Member use.

### ERP

A new ERP system has been implemented from January 01, 2021 for all billing, payments, POS, room booking, accounting and Member account data. Training was provided for all the Club staff that need to use this system, including Office, Chambers and Restaurant staff. A Mobile App was also set-up to be downloaded to Member mobile phones. This App enables Members to login into the App on their mobile phone and access their Profile, Billing Info, Monthly Statement, Club Events, Club Website and Affiliated Club list. Members can view their Account Balance and pay their bills conveniently from their Mobile Phone App. Efforts are underway to add additional features such as Restaurant Menu and other useful features on the App.

While Covid-19 has interrupted smooth operation of the facilities and systems at the Club, we coped well with the changes and implemented strict rules to ensure the safety of the Members, Guests and Staff and prevent Covid infections.

I thank the Members and Guests for their support and for their patience and understanding as new procedures and systems were implemented. The Staff has been very accommodating during the time of shut down due to Covid and subsequent start-up when they had to carry additional work load. I thank them for their service to the Club.

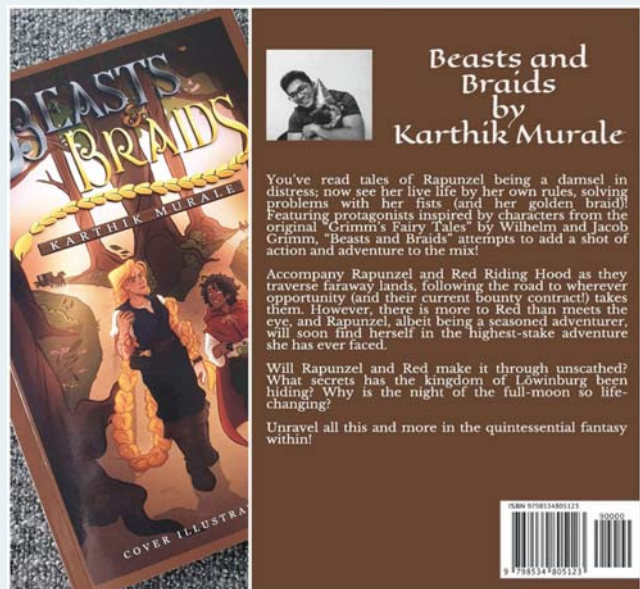
**Jogendra Suryadevara**

## Announcements

- Club Elections for the Managing Committee 2021- 22 will be conducted on November 21 and 22 in the Club, followed by the 117th AGM on 22nd evening at 6.30 pm.

## Member's Honour

**Karthik Murale (K-268)** recently published his first novel, 'Beasts and Braids', in Melbourne, Australia. Karthik had his early education in Vizag, studying at Timpany School and graduating from Gitam University, before he moved to Melbourne for his MBA at Monash University. Currently, he works in Abu Dhabi, for a leading financial institution. 'Beasts and Braids' is in the genre of Fantasy fiction and is available as an e-book for kindle readers and also as a paperback edition on Amazon. The book has received accolades and excellent reviews and a copy of the novel, presented to Waltair Club by the author, is available in the club library. For those of you who were enthralled by the books of Rowling, Riordan and Tolkien, here is a top-notch fantasy from a young writer!



### Beasts and Braids by Karthik Murale

You've read tales of Rapunzel being a damsel in distress; now see her live life by her own rules, solving problems with her fists (and her golden braids). Featuring protagonists inspired by characters from the original 'Grimm's Fairy Tales' by Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm, 'Beasts and Braids' attempts to add a shot of action and adventure to the mix!

Accompany Rapunzel and Red Riding Hood as they traverse faraway lands, following the road to wherever opportunity (and their current bounty contract) takes them. However, there is more to Red than meets the eye, and Rapunzel, albeit being a seasoned adventurer, will soon find herself in the highest-stake adventure she has ever faced.

Will Rapunzel and Red make it through unscathed? What secrets has the kingdom of Löwinburg been hiding? Why is the night of the full-moon so life-changing?

Unravel all this and more in the quintessential fantasy within!



### **Dr Meenakshi Anantram (A-82)** named Legend of Indian Event Industry

Visages pioneering Event Manager and founder Razzmatazz Dr Meenakshi Anantram received the coveted award and title of "Legend" of the Events and Entertainment Industry from the apex association EEMA the national body of

registered Eventers in the country. Her company is a 30 year old foot print in the 10,000 crore Event Industry and has arranged more than 6000 prestigious events all over the world. Meenakshi is a Limca Book Awardee and celebrity Anchor. She is one of the few people from Vizag to be featured in India Today and Readers Digest



# Obituary

We regret to announce the sad demise of the following members.



Capt. GM. Peter



Dr. P. Venu  
Gopal



B. Nageswara Rao



Harsha Vemireddi



A. Narasimha Raju C



D. Dakshina  
Murthv



Ch. Raghuram Prasad



C. Venkata Ramaiah



N. Sri Nagesh



K. Ramakrishna Rao



D. Srinivas



Sabbam Hari



G. C. Krishna Murthy



N. V. Subba Rao



Mr. P. Satya Prasad



Ch. Raghuram Prasad



B. Kumar



G. J. V. J. Raju



V. Rokkam



G. Sarveswara Rao



V. V. Narayana



N. Thammayya



Savita Mahanti



A. Madhuri



K. Lakshmi



Oruganti Srinivasulu



Ila Rao



T. Ch. Ramaiah Naidu



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# Senior Members Meet

A Senior Citizens Meeting was held on 31.10.2021 at the 'Oyster Hall' in the Club. The Meeting commenced at 11:00 am with a condolence for one minute silence for the 1st Chairman Capt. G.M.Peter and the other senior members who have passed away after January 2021. May their souls rest in peace.

Two games of Tambola were conducted and the winners were awarded by the Managing Committee of the Club. The meeting ended with a lunch. The whole meeting was sponsored by Sri Srikanth Jasti (Committee Member).

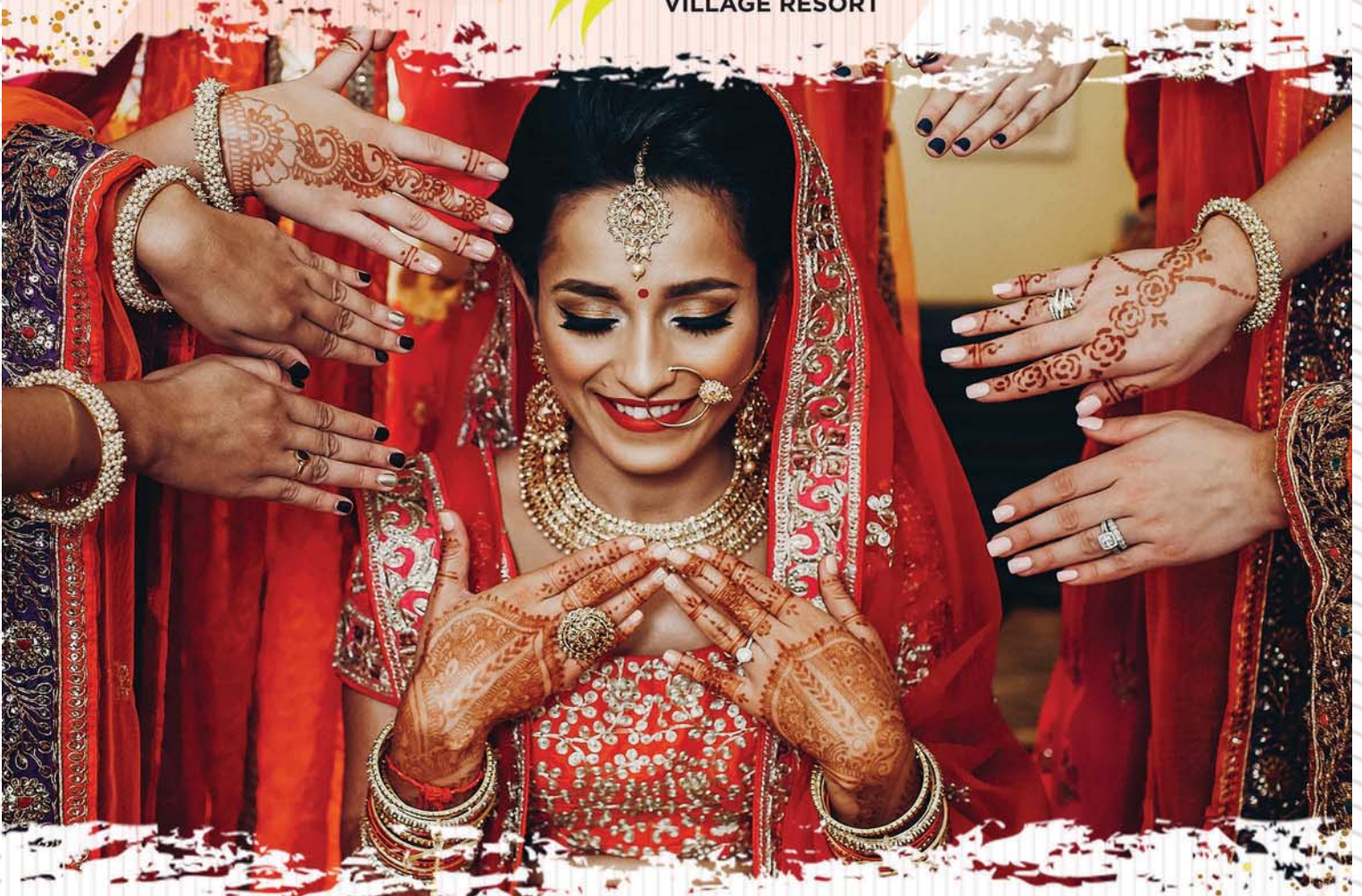
**D.Raj Gopal Reddy (R-65)**  
Chairman, Senior Citizens Committee.







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# Grand Launch of *The Waltair Club Saga*



The making of the Waltair Club Coffee Table Book, had all the trimmings of a historical event. Ever since its inception the Club has not had anybody attempt to chronicle its history, leave alone make a coffee table book! This is the first time that such a mammoth task has been attempted and successfully brought to a completion. I say mammoth because delving into non-existent archives, collecting facts from people and compiling them is no mean task and it has taken the editorial team three and a half years to achieve this goal - three and a half years interspersed with many brainstorming sessions and not to forget the lockdown periods due to the pandemic which brought the world to a standstill. But hats off to Dr Hema Yadavalli who spearheaded this project along with a team of passionate history buffs, who managed to keep this dream alive. All their efforts have finally come to a fruition and culminated in the Coffee Table Book being launched on the 23rd of October 2021.

An aesthetically decorated Waltair Club Centenary Hall, complete with a red carpet greeted the members and guests on the evening of the Coffee Table Book launch. The events for the evening started soon after the arrival of the Chief Guest, Justice D.V.S.S Somayajulu and the Guest of Honour, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commander in Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The most awaited guest, however, was the special guest and Femina Miss India World Ms Manasa Varanasi.







Mrs Sandhya Godey and Mr Vijay Atmakuri who compered the evening's show welcomed everybody and the opening feature was a slide show, of all the hard work that had been put in during the making of the coffee table book. These pictures were tagged with humourous captions. Dr Hema Yadavalli delivered the welcome address. In her opening remarks she thanked the book's editorial team for their contribution and support . The team members were all presented with a certificate each



The President of the Club also addressed the gathering and praised the team effort behind the making of the Coffee Table Book. The special guest was introduced and in her address she spoke succinctly about the cause she supports and an awareness campaign called, 'WE CAN' which she has started against sexual abuse of children. She explained that everyone can do their small bit in providing quality education accessible to children and give them a chance to dream - A Beauty with brains for sure !



The Guest of Honour, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, in his remarks, spoke fondly about the special bond shared by the Navy in Vizag and Waltair Club over many years. Chief Guest, Justice D.V.S.S Somayajulu who is the son of the soil and well known in the city of Vizag, reminisced in a light hearted manner about the camaraderie that exists among the Club members and reminded that we as members should feel privileged to be part of this historical legacy - Waltair Club. The evening's programme ended with the vote of thanks and later on everybody was vying with one another to pose with Miss India World for a snapshot. I am pretty sure that there must have been a quick change in their display pics that evening on whatsapp and other social media forums!!













# Golf Arena Inauguration



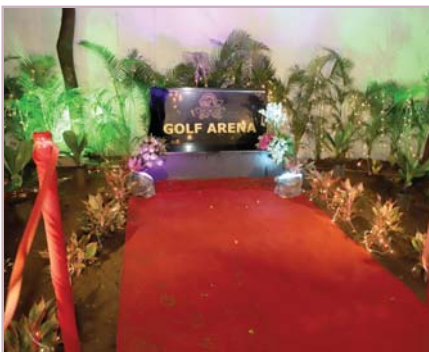
Waltair Club has always had a long-established connection with the game of Golf since colonial times when the Club was first started and had its own Golf Links by the sea-shore; and it is fitting that a Golf arena, dedicated to the sport, has now been opened for members.

The Golf Arena was duly inaugurated on 19th July 2021 at 6.30pm by the chief guest, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command, who is also the Patron in Chief of East Point Golf Club, Visakhapatnam. As per golfing tradition, he played the first stroke on the putting green.

Vice Admiral Biswajit Das Gupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, the Guest of honour for the occasion, was also present. Waltair Club President, Mr. P. Phaneendra Babu; Vice President, Mr. M.A . Murale; Secretary, Mr. P. Seetharamiah and other Committee members and golfers of Waltair Club were at the inaugural. The Golf arena consists of a putting green, a bunker and a net practice range. It has been developed entirely through sponsorships from generous members, and the untiring efforts of Mr. T Vijayamohan (General Services Committee chairman) and Mr. J. Srikanth (Sports Committee chairman). The Club has appointed a coach to train children and golf enthusiasts.

The Inaugural function was followed by high tea and was very well attended.

**-Dr. Padma Murale**





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# IBSAT MAIN All India Rank



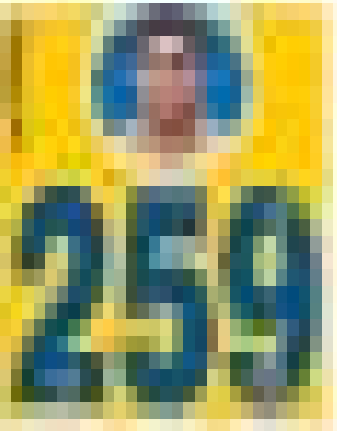
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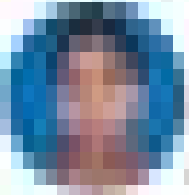
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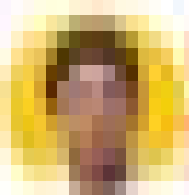
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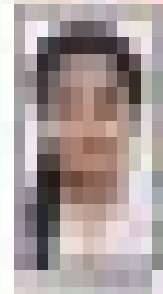
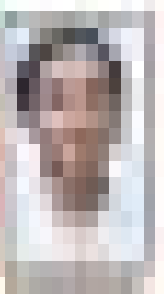
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## The Coffee Table Book Saga

It all started in the month of March 2018 when a thought flashed in my mind that Waltair Club needs a proper Coffee Table Book to showcase the 138 glorious years since its inception. Instantly, I expressed my thought to the Managing Committee Members. They were very encouraging and gave me a 'go ahead'. I formed a team with the most brilliant members and wanted to start the work. I was under the impression that the entire data is readily available and that our job was only to put everything together and bring it out in the form of a book. It hardly took any time for me to realise that I was totally wrong and understood that it was going to be a very challenging task.

The huge wooden board in the reception area of the Club displaying the names of the Past Presidents has never drawn my attention for nearly 20 years as a member of the Club. After we started working on the book, for the first time, I looked at the board and read the names of the Past Presidents. The English men who were the Presidents of the Club in the initial years have drawn my special attention. I was intrigued by the questions like 'How did they look like?', 'what professions were they into?', 'How did they contribute to the development of the club?' and so on. Unfortunately, there was not even a single photo or a record of any sort to answer my questions.

(On a lighter note, Since I was thinking about the Book 24 by 7 consciously and subconsciously, I could see some of these gentlemen in my dreams though that did not help us in any manner to take the work forward.)



A series of meetings and brain storming sessions were conducted to understand how and where to begin. We reached out to the members for old photos and information and searched every inch of the library in pursuit of finding something interesting. All the photo albums available in the Club Library were scanned. I wrote to all the old clubs of India and abroad requesting them to share any information about our Waltair Club. Considerable amount of information was acquired after this exercise. I became greedy for more information and reached out to the members living in other cities also and visited them personally to try my luck.

I strongly believe that when someone is committed genuinely to do something, the entire universe would conspire to support the cause. This proved to be absolutely true in my case. My friend Jayshree Hatangadi introduced me to an amazing person John Castellawho lives in Melbourne. His forefathers lived in Visakhapatnam and he also spent a few years of his early childhood in this city. The moment I told him about the book, he said he would be very happy to share the inputs for the book.

With the diligent efforts of the members of our team, we could collect decent amount of information and had a rough draft ready. I wanted someone to read it for the first time and give an honest opinion about the book. Coincidentally, I met Justice DVSS Somayajulu at that time and requested him to give his opinion about the book. He browsed through the pages said the book looked very impressive. I felt greatly relieved as if a judgement was passed out in my favour from His Lordship when he gladly accepted to write his message for the book.

Subsequently I felt that since Vizag and Navy are synonymous and also, the history of Vizag and the Club history are intertwined with each other, it would be appropriate to request the Chief in Command Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh to write a foreword for the book. It was very encouraging to receive a very positive feedback from him in the form



of a foreword. The icing on the cake was when Ms.Manasa Varanasi, Femina Miss India World (who is my cousin) agreed to grace the occasion despite her very hectic schedule, prior to Miss World Pageant. I once again felt that when we are strongly committed to do something, the entire universe conspires to support us.

It was indeed a great journey and every moment was a learning experience. I am extremely thankful to Dr.PadmaMurale, John Castellias, Jayshree Hatangadi, Sohan Hatangadi, Vijay Atmakuri, Sandhya Godey, Parveen Hosain, Shanti Chitra, Kavita Vijjeswarapu, Shashank Dutt, K.R. Deepak, Dr.Suresh Gorantla, Sumedh Yadavalli, VivekRathod and Meenakshi Anantaram for going out of the way to support me and making the coffee book a reality. There was great joy in reading and editing the articles contributed by the members written in their own unique style. I enjoyed the warmth showered by our members when I visited them to gather information. I enjoyed picnic-like bird watching sessions at Club with Sohan Hatangadi, Vivek Rathod, Hari and K.R.Deepak to capture these beautiful species. I had the emotional support offered by my husband Hari Krishna during the entire journey which was full of great surprises and some disappointments.

The numerous hours spent indesigning and re-designing the pages at G.K.PrintHouse, which has become my second home for three years was an enriching experience. My regards to Mr.D.S.V.Rama Krishna Raju for his unconditional support and Pradeep for his immense patience in doing the work.

When we started the work, many members asked me a questions, 'why do you want to do a Coffee Table Book for Waltair Club? My answer was simple... "for many of us it is just not a Club but rather it is our second home. If we don't record the information now, the future generations will not have any scope to know the history of the Club".

The entire team of Coffee Table Book is thankful to the Managing Committee 2020-21 for making it happen. It is a humble dedication to all the members of the Club.

Happy Reading !

**Dr.HemaYadavalli**

Editor

The Waltair Club Saga



# Waltair celebrates Vizag's New Harbour...

- John Castellas

It was approaching midnight of 19 December 1933 on the lawns of the Waltair Club where distinguished guests were being jointly hosted to a Gala Banquet and Ball by the Maharajah of Vizianagaram and the Vizagapatam Municipal Council Chairman Mr. AV Bhanoji Rao. From the bandstand, the music of the Maharajahs band resounded all night but now, paused and changed key, the crowd hushed, recognized the first bars of a familiar refrain and gradually joined in to loudly sing...

*"Should old acquaintance be forgot,  
An' never brought to mind;  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
An' days o' langsyne.  
"For auld langsyne, & c"*

So drew a close to the most historic day for Vizag and Waltair, as the new harbor was officially opened that day and news reports were telegraphed to London, New York, Paris Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong and Cape Town to herald the completion of the most significant engineering feat in pre-Independence India.

The day started just after noon at Waltair Railway Station. The Bengal Nagpur Railways senior management gathered as BNR, with their heavy engineering infrastructure at Waltair, had been appointed by the Government of India to construct Vizag's new harbor in 1916. Also in the gathering was the Collector Mr. JB Brown, the Municipal Council led by Mr. Bhanoji Rao, the Maharajah of Vizianagaram and invited dignitaries. Waltair Station platform was decorated and abuzz with expectation as the Vice Regal carriage was shunted to the platform. The Viceroy of India had arrived to open the new harbor and the administration was basking in its achievement of accomplishing a project that had been debated and deliberated on for 100 years. The mounted Police Honour Guard was inspected, and the Viceroy was driven to Vizag in the Maharajahs Rolls Royce.



Dipper Dredger Waltair

At Vizag Harbour, the crowds had gathered at all vantage points along the shore. A cordon of vessels was positioned near the Channel Entrance adjacent to the Turning Circle. A 'water fantasia' sail-in was orchestrated, and the band played entertaining music as the Viceroy boarded the tug Sir Guthrie Russell.

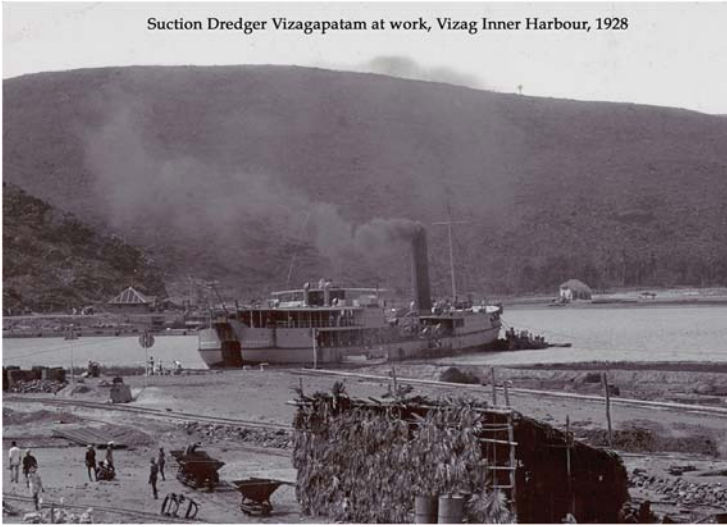
The Dipper Dredger Waltair that had initiated the dredging of the Inner Harbour and Channel in 1927, joined the cordon of vessels as the Viceroy's craft approached. The Waltair, Suction Dredger Vizagapatam and a Ceremonial Barge named Julia after the wife of Colonel Cartwright Reid who was once President of the Waltair Club. The official vessels were festooned with flags and on their open decks were seated distinguished guests who were afforded an excellent view of the proceedings.



SS Jaladurga, first commercial vessel in Vizag Harbour



Suction Dredger Vizagapatam at work, Vizag Inner Harbour, 1928



Suction Dredger 'Vizagapatam'

Steam Navigation Company of Bombay purchased the SS Coconada and renamed it SS Jaladurga. She was the first commercial vessel to enter the newly opened harbour of Vizagapatam on 7 October 1933.

Back at the Waltair Club, the glow of lights on the lawns was matched by the glow of pride of Waltair's citizens whose achievements were being celebrated at the gala Banquet and Ball. The Maharajah of Vizianaagram rose to Toast the Government, Bengal Nagpur Railway and Community leaders who had made the dream of a sheltered harbour in Vizag a reality. Mr. AV Bhanoji Rao (later President of the Waltair Club 1961) rose to Toast key individuals and he started with Colonel Herbert Cartwright Reid who was the President of Waltair Club in 1913 while posted to Vizag as the British Admiralty's Superintendent Civil Engineer on the design for a new harbour for Vizagapatam. In 1921, Col Cartwright Reid was appointed Engineer-in-Chief for the Bengal Nagpur Railway Vizagapatam Harbour Project and retired from this role in 1928. Col Reid championed the final design of the Inner Harbour concept against the lobby for an Outer Harbour and based his ideas on lessons learnt in earlier construction of harbours at Madras and Durban in South Africa, and detailed modelling of the monsoonal drifts of silt at the entrance of the Vizagapatam harbour mouth. Col Reid also influenced the Sir J.H Biles & Co Naval Architects design of the drag suction hopper dredger Vizagapatam and Mrs Julia Cartwright Reid launched this vessel at the Clyde slipways of Simons & Co in 1925.

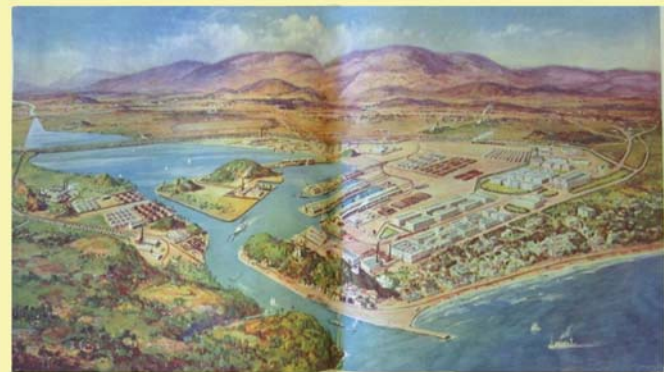
The next toast was for Wilfrid C Ash, the harbour's then Engineer-in-Chief, who had planned the day's Opening Ceremony. Also toasted was Captain Eric Hope Glassup who was Navigating Dredger Master on the SD 'Vizagapatam'. Capt Glassup was a foundation member of Vizag Port Pilot Service and his proudest moment was to be the pilot on the bridge of the SS Jaladurga as this was the first ship that entered the new harbour. (Captain Glassup, later Waltair Club President in 1960 was to serve 41 years with the Vizag Port Trust and retired as Deputy Conservator, having been Pilot, Chief Pilot, Deputy Harbour Master, Harbour Master).

Vizag's momentous event was reported in newspapers around the world and in London, The Illustrated London News reported on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the epic feat that was to make all citizens of Vizag and Waltair very proud.

The London Times Weekly Edition carried a special India Supplement and across the centrefold was an artist's impression of the landscape that Vizag was to become.

The Viceroy stood at the bow of the tug Sir Guthrie Russell as he parted a ribbon between the Waltair and the Ceremonial barge Julia, the crowd cheered, and the band struck up the overture from The Gondoliers. The Viceroy delivered an address, the Vizagapatam Municipal Council gifted a silver and ebony presentation casket, Mr AV Bhanoji Rao gave an address in reply as did Mr G Jagannadha Raju, President of the District Board and the guests and their wives were then presented to the Viceroy on the deck of the ceremonial barge. That evening, the Viceroy departed by train from Vizagapatam railway station and guests retreated to Waltair, changed their topees and parasols for black ties and finery for the celebrations at the Waltair Club.

A few months earlier, on 1 September 1933, the Scindia



*The new harbour of Vizagapatam, on the Coromandel coast of India, almost midway between Calcutta and Madras, is to be opened shortly. It has been under construction during the past 5 years, and its creation will have a beneficial influence on the development of the Central Provinces and adjacent territories. In this drawing, based on official plans and specially made for The Times Weekly Edition by Mr Douglas Macpherson, the complete scheme of development for a harbour of large dimensions is shown.*

**VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR - THE NEW PORT FOR MIDDLE EASTERN INDIA**  
THE LONDON TIMES WEEKLY EDITION, 29 JUNE 1933  
Collection of John Castella, Melbourne, 2018





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