



The first beneficiary of our Project 'Smart Vision Glasses for the Blind' for the year 2023-2024. He is Mohammed Anas, who was referred by The Indian Association of Blind. He loves reading and listening to music.

President's note



I am honoured to stand before you today as the 27th President of Rotary Club of Chennai Towers. I'm humbled by the trust you have placed in me. I'm excited to lead our club in the coming year 2024-25 with the RI theme for the year The Magic of Rotary. I urge our members to recognise and amplify the organisation's power to save lives .

I congratulate IPP Rtn Binoy, Secretary Rtn Jayshree and their Board members for giving us a year filled with meaningful projects (Smart vision glasses project deserves a special mention), interesting speaker meetings inviting speakers from different walks of life, a memorable club trip to Srilanka - all of which saw great participation from the club. In the year ahead, my team will focus on taking up projects that will have a lasting impact on our community's health and environment.

I strongly believe what Charles Tennant in the year 1957 said; 'It's Club Service that puts Rotary into a man'. My Club service team has planned 12 speaker meetings, fellowships, movie nights and the Club Trip to Bali.

Vocational service aims at providing training and skill development for women.

Rightly called the 'partners in service I have always felt Rotaractors have been a major help in all our Rotary activities. This year we are initiating a new Rotaract club at The Patrician College.

The Mobile Van project which was initiated during our Silver jubilee year - 2022-23, will take its shape this year, the van will reach out with periodical medical screenings to people in rural areas.

I request the Rotarians to propose new members who have a passion for service and can lead the club in future. I hope to have a well-balanced membership - so that our club has representation from various businesses and professionals backgrounds.

I request the Green Rotarians to come forward and be part of our projects and fellowships and eventually take up leadership posts in future and take RCCT to greater heights.

Yours in Rotary

Rtn. President Shalin Shah

Key dates & events for August

7th
Board meeting

8th
Speaker meeting

9th
Spoken English at
Anjugam School

9th
Rotaract Club
installation at Patrician
College

16th
Talk by Annet Rahul
Iyappan at KRMM
School

17th
Quiz at KRMM School

At a Glance

Medical camps at T P Chatram & Siruseri

Breakfast at Little drops

Akshayam

Surabi certificate distribution

Interact Installation at KRMM School

RCCT Installation of 2024-25

Club Assembly

Book donation & Spoken English class at Anjugam school

RCCT in the district

Achievements

Anniversaries

Know your Rotarian - Founding father of RCCT - Rtn G K Selvaraj



Editor's note



Greetings RCCT!

Welcome to the 27th volume of Towers times!

It feels like yesterday when ex-Rtn Rajshekhar and I had worked on the first bulletin of our club in 1998, under the able guidance of our founder & mentor Rtn GK Selvaraj and our Charter President Rtn Sabu. It was a simple A4 size bulletin with 4 pages.

We have come a long way, from that analog age to this digital era.

Our bulletin, over the years, has been reflecting the ever-growing vibrance of the club by steadily growing in pages and features.

Here's what's in store for you this year.

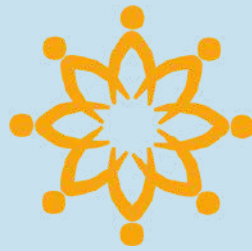
The cover of each issue will feature one or more beneficiaries of RCCT to showcase the meaningful projects we do in RCCT month after month.

We're reviving an old feature 'Know your Rotarian' from our earlier bulletins. The last page of each issue will re-introduce a Rotarian and his family to the club, starting from our founding father, Rtn G K Selvaraj.

A big shout out to Ann Anuradha for being the backbone of the bulletin with her tireless support!

Yours in Rotary

Rtn Padmaja Venketram



Community Service: Medical

Director: Rtn. Satish Kandimalla

Medical Camp

at TP Chatram, off Kilpauk Road

July 13th 2024



Total Count: 80

Detected:

Diabetes: 13

Systemic Hypertension: 3

Hep B: Nil

Hep C: Nil

Cataract: 17

Eye Glass Advice: 8

Thanks to Dr Vivek's Chennai Liver Foundation/RPS Hospitals for handling the total ops. Equitas Bank mobilised the beneficiaries & their Head of CSR Mr John Alex was present & committed more projects together.

Great to have the support of Secretary Rtn Sanjey Ahuja, Ann Anuradha Prasad, PP Rtn Rajesh Narang, Rtn Karthikeyan, Rtn Manoj & Rtn Dr Vivek Shanmugam at the venue.

Medical Camp

at Siruseri

27th July 2024



Total Count 131

Detected:

Diabetes: 12

Systemic Hypertension: 5

Hep B: 1

Hep C: Nil.

A medical camp was held on Saturday 27th July by RCCT in association with Chennai Liver Foundation where our van was used.

At Sodexo India Services Private Limited, TCS Campus, SIPCOT Siruseri, Chennai.

Ongoing projects: Balanethra



Infants born with retina problems will become permanently blind if not lasered immediately. PP Rtn Dr Vasumathy and Dr Praveen, along with their team in Radhatri Nethralaya, have been performing the laser surgeries to prevent blindness on newborn babies of the underprivileged parents. This signature project of our club has been an ongoing project for many years.

This Rotary year, Rtn Anandkrishnan has pledged to sponsor 100 babies. As part of this, 15 babies were treated in July 2024.

Ongoing projects:

Mobile Van



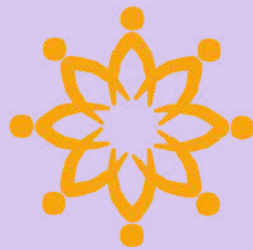
Chennai Liver Foundation (CLF) a non profit organization founded in 1998 is a board member of the prestigious World Hepatitis Alliance and a partner with World Health Organisation (WHO). CLF works primarily towards elimination for viral hepatitis.

During the Silver Jubilee year of our club 2022-2023, Past President Satish Jupiter along with our members identified mobile vans as one of the significant projects to benefit the community at a larger scale.

Rotary Club of Villers-La-Ville, located in Belgium, South of Brussels is part of Rotary International District 2150. For over 22 years, the club has been dedicated to serve both its local community and International causes. Through the Rotary Inter country committees ICCS, which promote relationships between International districts and countries, Rotary Club of Villars-La-Ville has collaborated with RCCT on several health projects. These initiatives aim to benefit underprivileged citizens in Chennai.

Rotary Club of Chennai Towers and Chennai Liver Foundation have come together to provide a Mobile Clinic for prevention of non-communicable diseases. This was made possible by partnering with Rotary Club of Villars-La-Ville through the Global Grant project.

This sustainable and scalable project is an innovative one that will certainly change the health care delivery in the rural areas. help in preventing chronic diseases and also help in identifying them early so that they can be treated.



Community Service: Non Medical

Director: Rtn. Rukmani

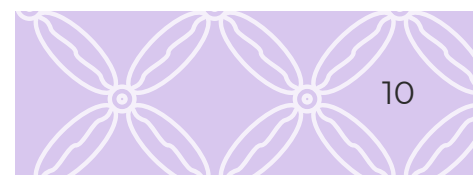
Little Drops

2nd July 2024



RCCT projects 24 -25 had a wonderful beginning, thanks to Ann Shoba and PP Rtn Ram for sponsoring food for the residents of Little Drops. The inmates were delighted by our presence and greeted us with beaming smiles. Every moment spent there reminded us of how blessed we are, making it a fantastic start to the day!

Our heartfelt thanks to President Shalin Shah, Secretary Sanjey, Rtn Sriram, Rtn Sapna, Rtn Karthikeyan, Rtn Pravin, and Annet Vaishnavi (daughter of Rtn Krishnachander and Ann Deepa) for their valuable time and support. May our community with such kindness and generosity continue to grow and thrive!



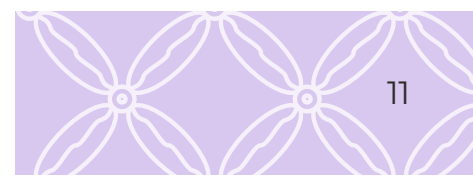
Urban Gardening

13th July 2024



RCCT was one of the hosts and co-sponsors, along with Bharath Petroleum, at the workshop on urban gardening held on 13th July, at Towers Park, Anna Nagar.

- Secretary Rtn Sanjey Ahuja

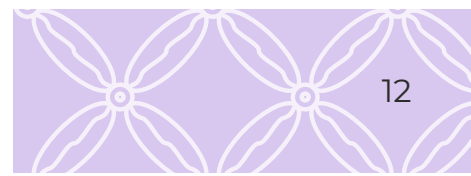


Akshayam

30th July 2024



Anns Archana and Sandhya distributed food packets to the homeless, hungry and much deserving people including small children near Besant Nagar Beach





Vocational Service

Director: Rtn Samuel Mathew

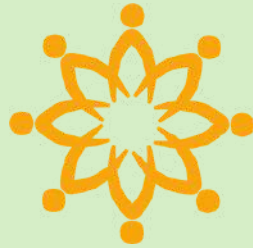
Surabi

Certificate distribution

20th July 2024



Rtn Samuel, the Vocational Service Director with his Ann Monica, distributed certificates to the women trainees at Surabi .



Youth Service

Director: Rtn. K P Jayashree

Interact Installation

29th July 2024



Installation of KRMM Interact Club was held on Monday, 29th July 2024. The Chief guest was District Interact Chairman Rtn Palani. President of Interact club Charulatha spoke about her plans for the entire year - Health Awareness Program, Cyber Safety Club, History Heritage Club with visits to Museums.

The function was well attended by President Shalin Shah, Rtn Satish Kandimalla, Anns Archana and Geetha .



Club Service

Director: Rtn Anandhakrishnan

Installation

9th July 2024



Rtn Shalin Shah and his team of board members for the year 2024-2025 were installed on 9th July at Taj Connemara Anna Salai.

District Governor Rtn S. Mahaveer Bothra was the Guest of Honour for the installation and the Shri Sunil Paliwal IAS, Chairperson Chennai Port Trust CMD, Kamarajar Port Ltd was Chief Guest.

The evening was well-attended by many visiting Rotarians from the district and of course, the members of RCCT .







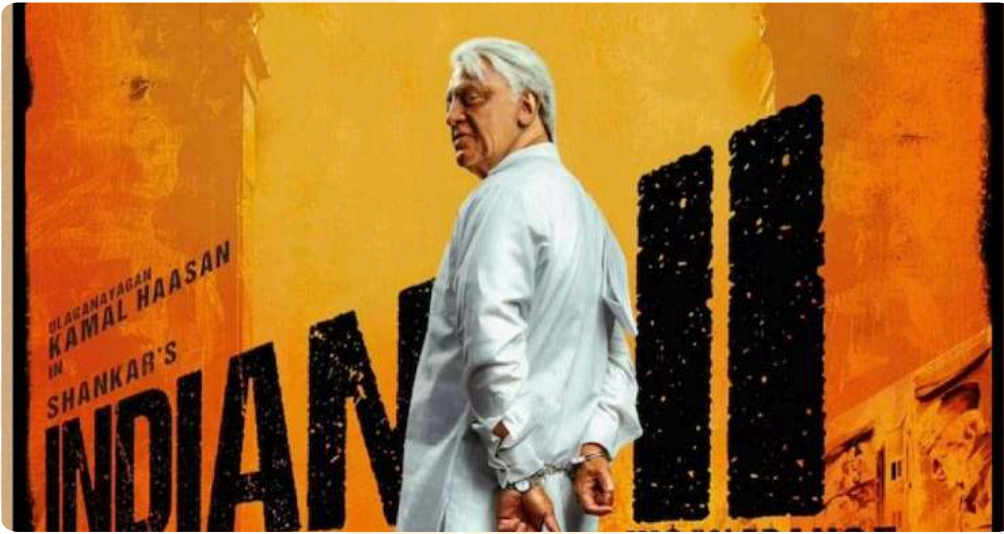
The new board:



Rtn Shalin A Shah	:	President
Rtn Sanjey S Ahuja	:	Secretary
Rtn Hitesh V Shah	:	Treasurer
PP Rtn Satish Jupiter	:	Club Advisor
PP Rtn Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham	:	Club Trainer
PP Rtn Binoy P K	:	Immediate Past President
Rtn Venkatesh Ramanathan	:	President Elect
Rtn Anandkrishnan	:	Director - Club Service
Rtn Satish Kandimalla	:	Director - Community Service (Medical)
Rtn Rukmani S	:	Director - Community Service (Non Medical)
Rtn Samuel Mathew	:	Director - Vocational Service
Rtn Jayshree K.P	:	Director - Youth Service
Rtn Shyam Sundar	:	Director - International Service
Rtn Sumedha Nandakumar	:	Chairman - Foundation
PP Rtn Mani Ramakrishnan	:	Chairman - Membership Development
Rtn Dr. Vignesh Pushparaj	:	Chairman - Literacy
Rtn Pravin Jayabal	:	Chairman - Public Image
PP Rtn Gopal K	:	Sergeant at Arms

Movie Night

12th July 2024



Special screening of the movie Indian - 2 at AGS Cinemas.

Club Assembly

12th July 2024



The club assembly was held in The Pearl Room at The Presidency club. Each Avenue Director presented their plans for projects and activities for the new Rotary year.



Literacy

Book Donation

at K.R.M.M. School

2nd July 2024



Around 50 books were donated by Rtn Eashwar and Ann Shalu for the Book Donation project.

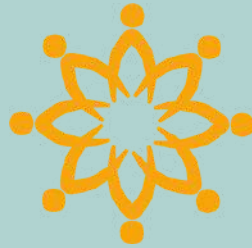
Spoken English Classes

July 19th and 24th 2024



Spoken English Classes were held at Anjugam Primary School by our Anns on July 19th and 24th for students of classes 4 and 5. The students enjoyed the playful method of learning English and wholeheartedly and enthusiastically participated in the activities.

The Anns who conducted these programs are Anns Alpana, Riya, Abha, Monica and Anuradha.



Rotary Foundation

Chair: Rtn. Sumedha Nandakumar

Major Donors



This year, the Rotary Foundation was off with a flying start, with the Foundation Chair Rtn Sumedha & Spouse PDG Rtn Nandakumar becoming Level 3 Major Donors, President Rtn Shalin Shah & First Lady Ann Reena Shah, Rtn PP Krishnachander & Ann Deepa becoming Major Donors.

RCCT in 3233



President Shalin attended the installation of the following clubs in the District held at various places .

- Rotary club of Madras North
- Rotary club of Chennai elite
- Rotary club of T Nagar
- Rotary club of K.K. Nagar
- Rotary club of Madras west
- Rotary club of Mid Town
- Rotary club of Tharamani.



Rotary events around the world

District 5810 Rotarian is Olympics Bound. Joseph Brown Track Field athlete fondly called Joe from the Rotary Club of Commerce is participating in Paris Olympics.

The Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic was chartered on February 13, 1988 - the opening day of the XV Olympic Winter Games hosted by Calgary.

Idea of District came in the year 1915 to Rtn HJ Brunnier of Rotary Club of San Francisco whose prescient idea of using a railway schedule map to divide Rotary clubs into Districts . In the year 1991 Districts changed by adding a Zero to all the District numbers thus came the tradition of using FOUR DIGIT NUMBERS for Districts in Rotary

Achievements



Ann Lakshmi Shyam, spouse of Rtn Shyam was awarded 'Dynamic Entrepreneur of the year' as she completed key projects in interior design, Architectural Design and Modular Furniture. The award ceremony took place in Kaula Lumpur .

Rtn Shyam, and his Team BLAU, were the IFCR Platinum Cup Winners at the International Fellowship of Cricket Rotarians.



Annet Jaden, son of Rtn Samuel Mathew and Ann Monica Harirao, primarily a badminton player, secured Runner up position in the Tamilnadu state Pickleball tournament held on 27-7-2024 for under 14 Boys singles.

Achievements



Annett Shakti, daughter of PP Rtn Vijay Kumar and Ann Mala was the winner in the women's category of Tamilnadu State Pickleball tournament.

Gokul Karthikeyan, son of Rtn Karthikeyan and Ann Geetha, won 3 Silvers and a Gold medal at the 49th Tamil Nadu State Shooting Championship held at Coimbatore. He will represent Tamil Nadu at the National Shooting Championship later this year.



Netra Karthikeyan, daughter of Rtn Karthikeyan and Ann Geetha captained her school Under-14 girls Basketball team, which was placed 2nd in the league, in the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination regionals, held at Vellore.

Our Annet Netra is one of the twelve students in the TN Squad, selected to compete at the CICSE Nationals to be held in Bhopal next month.

Wedding Anniversaries

RCCT extends warm wedding anniversary wishes to the lovely couple celebrating their special day. Congratulations

Rtn Anandkrishnan
Ann Saranya



Rtn Dr Vidhyadharan
Ann Mrinalini



PP Rtn Eashwar
Ann Shalu



KNOW YOUR ROTARIAN

Rtn G K Selvaraj



I am G K Selvarajan, the GSR who started Rotary club of Chennai Towers.

The seed

I laid down my office as the President of Rotary Club of Annanagar in 1996. In the next year, the then Governor PDG. Rtn. Chari requested me to start a new Rotary club. I agreed on a condition that I should have full discretion in choosing the charter members. He agreed.

I formulated three specifications for taking the charter members

- They should not have been previously exposed to Rotary.
- Age should be between 30 and 40 only.
- They should be very busy in their vocation or business (Only busy people will have time for everything)

The plant

I met Sabu Balagopal through a friend of mine and on my very first impression, decided that he should be the Charter President. We both started the venture to initiate new members. We interviewed more than 75 people and selected about 25 charter members.

The Club was chartered. Since every member of the group was very new to Rotary, I organised many meets to share guidelines on how to conduct meetings, organise speakers, the administrative work, the protocols to be observed and ideas for fellowships and banquets (I had insisted that they should have high standard, class and style).

I made it a point to attend every meeting of the club for at least one year, to monitor and guide the members and to ensure the club could perform by itself without any assistance by that year. I made it almost mandatory that the Anns and Annets should participate in the meetings (Introduce the speaker, vote of thanks, MC and audio and video presentations, prepare and perform entire programmes). During those times, me and my wife Nalini bonded well with all the members and their families of RCCT. We were happy that it was a harmonious group of like minded people and a fine blend of successful men and women.

The Tree

Today Chennai Towers is a premier club in the District with awards galore every year, with accolades and appreciations all around. The Club has become owner's pride and neighbour's envy. Now RCCT has made me a proud father and I have immense satisfaction and pride that I have contributed to Rotary institution by giving a great Rotary club.

Naming the club

Annanagar, in whose name Annanagar Club, the sponsoring Club was formed, has Tower as its Landmark. So it was decided to name the new club Rotary Club Chennai Towers

Naming the bulletin

When I was the editor of the Bulletin of Annanagar Club 'Towertalk', I won the Best Bulletin Award in the District. Therefore it was decided to name the Bulletin of Chennai Towers 'Towers Times'.

My early memories in drafting the bulletin

I wanted to ensure that Towers Times should be a role model or textbook example for other clubs. I ensured it covered all the events from the previous week with nice pics, information and happenings in the Rotary District and Rotary International, family events, birthday wishes, calendar for the month (speakers and programmes would be already lined up), humour and all things that make the bulletin lively and interesting. I encouraged Rotarians, Anns and Annets to contribute (They did a fantastic job)

My memories

I am very happy to see the formation and growth of the club and I am now beaming with pride on the accomplishments, awards RCCT receives every year. I wish that the club always retains its pride of place .

I wish that the bonhomie and bonding among the members and their families grow into the likes of a large joint family, the soul satisfying charity and community projects continue and the glorious Rotary principles always reverberate in the members' lives.

May the towering fame grow taller and taller and RCCT grow from strength to strength like a Banyan tree!

Bulletin Team:

President: Shalin Shah | Secretary: Sanjey Ahuja

Editor: Rtn Padmaja Venketram | Co - editor: Ann Anuradha Prasad