

ROTARY CLUB OF CHENNAI TOWERS

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3232

23
24

JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 26 | Issue 7

Celebrating our RCCTians



JANUARY IS

"Vocational service gives Rotarians the opportunity to help others escape poverty and gain a measure of self-respect. As business and professional leaders, we have a duty to feed and encourage good ethics through vocation." Carlos Fram, FDG D6440



Rotary

www.rotary.org



SPECIAL FEATURE

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SMART VISION GLASSES PROJECT

PP Rtn Umapathy

Objective: Improving quality of life for the visually challenged

Rotary Club of Chennai Towers has been spearheading medical projects such as setting up fully fitted out dialysis centers in localities that don't have access to such services and also conducting health camps and supporting medical centers, among other projects. When there was an opportunity to address the issues of those with uncorrectable blindness in India, we explored the solution offered. In this case it was a smart vision device - a tried and tested product that could be fitted to glasses, and would provide assistance in the following ways:

- * Offers voice assistance to help them recognize objects in its view such as vehicles, obstacles, traffic signals, zebra crossings, furniture, etc.
- * Reads out books, newspapers etc. to them with many language options
- * Helps recognize obstacles within 4m
- * Describes people and recalls once stored
- * Offers Emergency Call on standby.

RCCT, led by President Rtn.Binoy Pillai, supported by Sec Rtn Jayashree, believed the product would help those who had permanently lost their vision, live more independently and with dignity. A committee was formed to assess the efficacy of the product and to identify the beneficiaries while looking for sponsors who could help the project through. Each device is priced at Rs. 30000 + taxes and includes smart vision glass, protective glass pouch, user manual, warranty card, Bluetooth neckband with charging cable, and a headband.

The members of RCCT rose to the occasion and took this project to corporate houses, who were impressed with the features and were keen to partner with us through their CSR wings. Through our donors we collected an amount of over ₹ 1.25 crore, under the able leadership of Fundraising Chair Rtn Anand Krishnan, supported by Treasurer Rtn.Sanjey Ahuja. The project was guided by Project Chair Rtn. Umamathy who, representing the club, coordinated between the vendors, prospective donors and beneficiaries to ensure the project moved smoothly.

A special evening to celebrate the donors was organized at the Taj Connemara with a mellifluous performance by the flautist Manoj. The donors were honored and they distributed glasses to the beneficiaries at the event. We are proud to say that these devices are already making a significant difference in the lives of many visually challenged individuals. We are committed to promoting independence and dignity for all, as we continue to identify and donate the smart vision glasses to deserving beneficiaries.



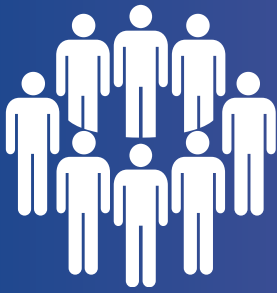
SMART VISION GLASSES PROJECT AT MINDERA

Ann Archana Kumar

On January 4, 2024 we had a heartwarming day at Mindera, Chennai office, as we distributed the Smart Vision glasses to three blind students from Presidency College. All the three students hail from small villages in Tamil Nadu and come from marginalized backgrounds. Two of them aim to write the UPSC exams and the other student - Kathir is doing his first year bachelor's degree and aspires to become a software developer. All of them were happy to receive the smart vision glasses which will help them to achieve their ambitions. Mindera team members and few other members of the group company were present for the event. This project was completely funded by the employees of Mindera and the shared happiness was undeniable. Cheers to the Mindera team, RCCT and every Rotarian and Ann present for this event. This gesture indeed made a meaningful impact on these student's lives.







COMMUNITY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

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AKSHAYAM

This afternoon, January 30, 2024, on behalf of RCCT, we distributed hot tomato rice, pachadi, fryums and water to 101 homeless people on the streets. They were pleasantly surprised and appreciative to get this wonderful surprise lunch. Yet another fulfilling Akshayam project done.



PONGAL CELEBRATIONS

Thanks to the contribution from Anns Shalini Eashwar and Radha we donated sarees and bed sheets to the residents of Anupampattu village on January 12, 2024.



CYCLONE MICHAUNG

Thanks to contribution from Anns Shalini Eashwar Shobha Sriram and Rtn Mani we donated bedsheets and mats to Little drops on January 12, 2024.





WISHING WELL PROJECT - ANJUGAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ann Alpana

“The wishing well” project held on January 12, 2024 at Anjugam school, is a project that’s close to our hearts and one of the favorites of RCCT. This project is conducted every year at around Christmas time. This year it was shifted to another date due to the rainy weather. The concept of this project is to make a wish list of gifts that each individual child wants and then our club members pick out the items from the list, buy them, gift wrap them, assimilate and then distribute them on the stipulated day.

This project is eagerly awaited by the school children and it’s a delight to see their faces light up when they receive their gifts of choice.

RCCT Rotarians and Anns came together to conduct this much awaited project and we had a good number of our club members participating.

The children of classes 1 to 5 were handed over their respective gifts along with a box of snacks in a very organized manner. The principal Ms. Uma and the teachers, expressed their sincere thanks and appreciated the support that RCCT extends to them readily.

On behalf of Literacy avenue, Secy Rtn Jayashree and Ann Anuradha and handed over books for the school library.

As it always is, this project invokes a feeling of good will both for the children who receive the gifts as well as us!

We were glad to have Rtn Secy Jayashree, PP Rtn Vijay Kumar, Community Service chairman Rtn Venkat, Rtns Vinod, Rajesh Narang, Amudha and Anns Anuradha, Nirmala, Riya, Alpana participating in this project.





DID YOU KNOW?

In 1911 Rotary adopted the slogan “HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST” propounded by Arthur Frederick. This was when Vocational service of Rotary evolved.





COMMUNITY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT Medical JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 26 | Issue 7

MEDICAL CAMP AT IYYAPANTHANGAL

Apollo hospitals, Vanagram in association with RCCT conducted a mega medical camp at Prestige Bella Vista, Iyyapanthangal, on January 7, 2024. With Dr. Babu Ezhumalai, senior consultant cardiologist present there, the camp was well attended and appreciated.

Various parameters like height, weight, blood pressure, diabetology, cardiology, gynaecology, orthopaedic and a few more specialities were covered in this camp.

180 people attended the camp, out of which, 15 patients were found to have new cardiac issues and 13 new gynec cancers were identified. They were referred to cancer institute for further treatment.

The camp had a positive impact on the community and they were grateful for timely intervention and resultant support.



Mega Camp

Height | Weight | Blood Pressure | Random Blood Sugar
Diabetologist | Cardiologist (ECG & ECHO) |
Gynaecologist | Orthopaedic Surgeon (X-Ray) | General
Surgeon (Lap. Cholecystectomy & Hernia) Consultations

Date: 7th January 2024
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Venue : Prestige Bella Vista, Iyyappanthangal

Consultation by
Dr Babu Ezhumalai
Sr Consultant - Cardiologist

RTN. Binoy P.K. President
RTN. Dr. Vignesh Director, Medical
RTN. K.P. Jayashree Secretary







VOCATIONAL SERVICE




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TRAIN THE TEACHER PROJECT AT SANKARA SCHOOL

Rtn Aarthi Varanasi

The project conducted on January 6, 2024 at Sankara school, focused on training teachers from LKG to Std V, to help identify children with learning disabilities. The enthusiastic set of 25 teachers listened with rapt attention and made the most from the session conducted by Ms. Lakshmi Satish from Mirra. Special mention to Rtn. Satish Kandimala, for the closing session of the training program. The principal and the teachers were so happy with the training received and expressed their interest in wanting more of such helpful experiences. They even presented the trainer and our Vocational Service avenue director Rtn Aarthi Varanasi (representative of RCCT) with letters of appreciation.



TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM


IDENTIFYING CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

9 AM TO 1 PM
6TH JAN '24
SATURDAY

SANKARA SCHOOL
VALMIKI NAGAR
THIRUVANMIYUR

TRAINING
CONDUCTED
BY MIRRA

A special training program for teachers of KG to Class V on how to identify children with learning disabilities.



Binoy Pillai
PRESIDENT

Aarthi V.
DIRECTOR,
VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Jayashree K.P.
SECRETARY





DID YOU KNOW?

As vocational training service, Rotary club of Etobicoke mentors students at Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy for the Winter Wonderland Exhibition, fostering learning future business leadership





LITERACY

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BOOK DONATION AT ANJUGAM SCHOOL

Deepika Giri, a former member of our club, donated more than three hundred books towards our book donation project. On the day of project 'wishing well', we also donated books to Anjugam school. This gesture was much appreciated as it added to their library and in turn encouraged the habit of reading in the children at the school.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION AT KRMM SCHOOL

On behalf of RCCT and the literacy avenue, Ann Anuradha Prasad was invited as chief guest at the 20th Annual day function of KRMM School Gandhi Nagar, on January 26, 2024.

The event began with welcome song sung by a group of students followed by vice principal introducing the guests and reading the annual report of the primary school's academic year.

This was followed by felicitation of the chief guest along with the principal of KRMM College.

Prize distribution function followed, where in, meritorious students from LKG upto class 5, were given certificates and prizes. Students who had 100% attendance from each class were given prizes too.

This was followed by short speech by the chief guest highlighting the 'four way test' of Rotary in daily life.

Students from various classes presented cultural dance and drama with the central theme of 'Agriculture' and our daily life, highlighting the importance to organic farming. Another important message conveyed by a superb mime, depicted reducing usage of cell phone and enjoying family time.

Finally the vote of thanks was given by the primary school vice principal, thanking the parents and sub staff for helping in putting the event together. The program concluded with singing the National Anthem.







WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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FLEA MARKET AT VIDYA MANDIR SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Ann Anuradha Prasad

The term 'FLEA MARKET' is translated from the French language 'MARCHE AUXPUCES' which literally means 'outdoor bazaar.' Antique dealer Russell Carnell's flea market in 1958 in Salisbury, Connecticut, is considered as the first official American flea market. Built upon the European tradition, not only did flea markets become popular all over the world, but were also used as fundraising events by many Rotary clubs worldwide.

When our 'Women Empowerment' chairperson, Rtn Rukmani approached me to join the flea market organizing committee, to help her in raising funds to help disabled women become financially independent, I had no idea how interesting this entire experience would be!

There were around twenty members in the committee, with each one giving brilliant ideas. Anns Biju, Hamsa and Shobha had experience in conducting one such fundraiser in the year 2000-01. They helped in organizing the collection and segregation of articles from members. President Rtn Binoy, Secy Rtn Jayashree, Rtn Shyla, spouse Ravi Varanasi, Anns Nirmala, Manasa, Mala, Sandhya, Sangeeta Binoy, Riya and Radha also helped in getting articles from our members. Past Presidents Rtns Sriram, Eashwar, Gopal and Rajesh Narang gave suggestions in choosing the venue.

Due to the cyclone Michaung, we had to postpone our event from December 12, 2023 to a new date and venue. This gave us some tense moments, however, with support and guidance from my committee members, I decided to contact the school where I worked for fourteen years - Vidya Mandir. The school PTA volunteers were planning 'Annual Fun Fest carnival' incidentally slated to be held in January. After a few meetings, everything went as planned and we got 2 stalls at reasonable price to display our articles and date was fixed for January 6, 2024.

Few days before the main event, some of our members met at the residence of Rtn Rukmani where they segregated all the collected items and fixed the price between Rs 50- 500 accordingly. Thus enabling sale of cheap and affordable items that could be purchased by many. The meeting was followed by mini fellowship of delicious homemade food cooked by Rtn Rukmani and her family.

On January 6th early morning at 7-30 AM, she arranged the stalls with a carnival like atmosphere, with attractive colorful posters, display cards and all the sale items. There were various categories of books, pre loved clothes, costume jewelry, kitchen articles, home decor products and a lot more.

Even before the inauguration of event the excited sub staff came in large numbers and picked up most of the stuff! All through the day we had mothers, grand parents, students and teachers coming and buying our products. We sold almost everything we displayed and in the last hour gave few items totally free to sub staff.

Few women were so inspired to see our club members cheerfully doing the sales at the stall and expressed interest in joining our club, exchanging phone numbers with our secretary Rtn Jayashree!

For me the happiest moment was when I met my colleagues, students and their parents after three years, at the fun fest. Infact, the sub staff of school told me they had enjoyed shopping here for their family, for the upcoming Pongal festival instead of going out and spending more money and time outside.

To conclude thrift shopping is not only environmentally friendly but is an essence of sustainability supporting the environment through REUSE and REPURPOSE. Each item purchased is one less item that makes its way into a land fill.

Revolutionize Your Choices, Empower Lives, and Be a Green Trendsetter: Choose Thrift!

Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School
#124, R.H.Road Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.

6th January, 2024, Saturday
10:00 a.m to 5:00 pm

Choice of apparel, classy home decor, crockery, appliances, toys, carpets, lamps, gifting items and more.
Sale proceeds go to the benefit of differently abled women.

please bring your own bags

Entry ticket: Rs. 20/-

SALE

SALE

SALE

RCCI
ROTARY CLUB OF CHENNAI TOWERS

Rotary
District 3232

CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD











DID YOU KNOW?

First vocational service project was done by Rotary club of Chicago, establishing early childhood education centers for training teachers in South Africa.



CLUB SERVICE

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SPEAKER MEETING

Annette Aditi

The speaker meeting held on January 11, 2024 at the Marriott hotel, was entirely different compared to the way it usually goes. We were all prepped to stretch our minds and bodies with the yoga sisters, Neha and Kiran, the guest speakers for the evening, who took us on a journey from how they got into Yoga to engaging us into practical yoga sessions. They taught us how a simple breath is all it takes to really control the mind to stay in the present. They didn't only go through the basic yoga poses, they saw to it that we stretched our limits and pushed as much as we could to unlock hidden breaths and relax muscles.

This holistic experience was followed by an informal interaction, where we welcomed our two new prospects, Mr Roja Rajan and Mr Praveen. Soon after this dinner was served and the session adjourned.

This was a healthy reset and definitely a well-deserved dose of wellness. The club service chair person, Rtn Vinay Asrani did a wonderful job of organising this informative and engaging event to perfection. This seemed to be food not only for thought, but also for the mind, body and soul.

RCCI
ROTARY CLUB OF CHENNAI TOWERS

ACTIVITY MEETING

STRECHHHH
your limit!!!!

11TH JANUARY, THURSDAY | 7 PM

COURTYARD BY MARIOTT
TEYNAMPET

YOGA WITH NEKI

Dress Code :
Casual Wear

President
RTN BINOY PK

Secretary
RTN K.P. JAYASHREE

Club Service
RTN VINAY ASRANI









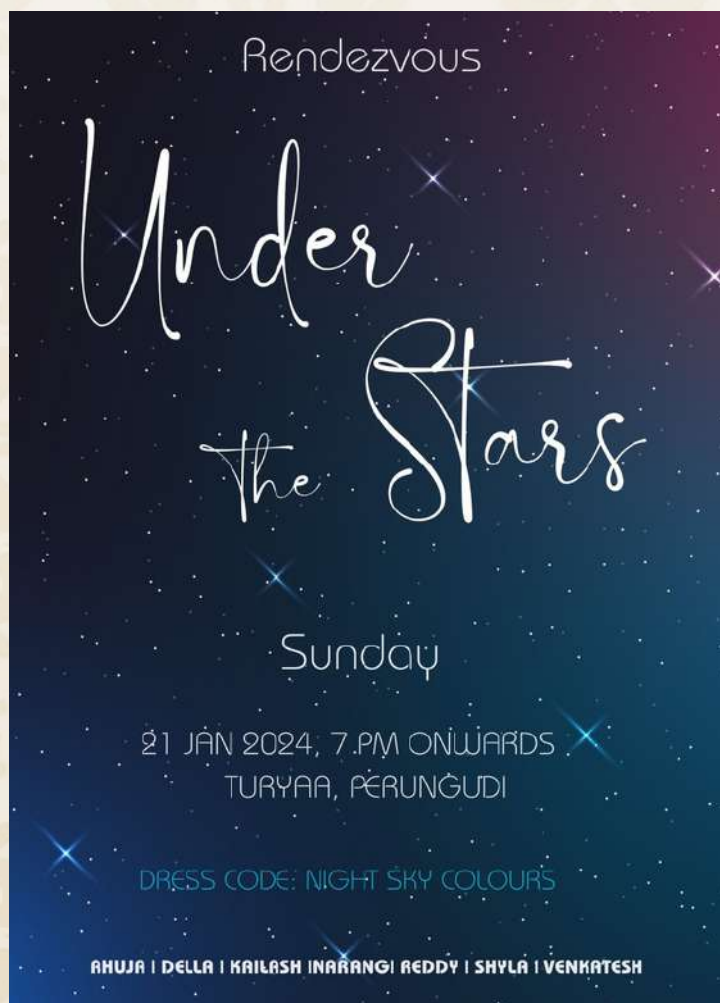
FELLOWSHIP AT HOTEL TURYAA

Rtn Satish Kandimala

Chennai has only a narrow window for good weather permitting outdoor get together's and so it was that the January fellowship, held on 21.1.24, was on the Terrace of Hotel Turyaa.

Called the "Under the Stars Fellowship " and with the dress code of 'Night Sky Colours', the fellowship was hosted by Rtns Rajesh, Venkatesh, Della, Satish Reddy, Shyla, Sanjeey and Kailash.

Beautiful ambience on the terrace, with greenery and lighting created an ideal vibe for the good sized crowd. The surprise dance performance by Ann Ritika Chabria and her daughter Annette Aditi was graceful and energetic adding to the electric atmosphere. We also had a cake cutting for Annette Jaden, son of Rtn Samuel and Ann Monika, for having won the U 13 State badminton championship. Flowing conversations and bonding over drinks, music and yummy food made this an evening to remember.









MOVIE NIGHT – “FIGHTER”

Ann Abha Soni



On January 25, 2024, our club service chair, Rtn Vinay Asrani, organised a thrilling movie night out to watch the much talked about movie - "Fighter," starring the dynamic duo of Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone. With around 22 of us in attendance, the atmosphere was electric, filled with hooting and cheering. Released just before our 75th Republic Day, the film's patriotic fervor added to the excitement.

True to its name, "Fighter" delivered jaw-dropping fighting scenes and breathtaking air stunts that kept us on the edge of our seats throughout. The adrenaline rush was palpable as we indulged in popcorn and other snacks, fully immersed in the action-packed storyline. Overall, the experience was captivating, leaving us thoroughly entertained and deserving of a 4.5 - 5 star rating.



RCCT IN THE DISTRICT

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The District 3232 Pongal Vizha was held on January 7, 2024 at Ayyapakam, Chennai. Rtn Rajesh Narang attended this event as part of the District Conference team. Rtn Dr. Raj was a sponsor of a segment and also rendered an inspiring speech

WINE FELLOWSHIP



Annette Sushmita daughter of Rtn Dr.Vignesh and Ann Dr. Runitha, participated in the Dance of District season 11 competition held on January 27, 2024 and was winner of the junior category. Congratulations!



On January 27, 2024 a fun filled entertainment district fundraiser was organised by the Rotary clubs of Chennai Vikas, RC Alandur and RC Chennai Accord, to help raise funds for a leprosy rehabilitation project. RC Chennai Towers was a participating club, President Rtn Binoy, Rtn Vijay Kumar, First Lady Ann Sangeetha and Ann Alpana attended the event. "Meesai aanalum mannaivi" was a wonderful humor filled drama that kept the audience in splits. At the end of the show all the participating clubs and co-presidents were honoured on stage for their contribution to the noble cause.







Rotary Club Of Chennai Vikas
 Rotary Club Of Alandur
 Rotary Club of Chennai Accord

cordially Invite you for the

INAUGURAL FUNCTION

FUND-RAISING EVENT
COMMUNITY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT - HEALTH

CHIEF GUEST
Thiru. B. LENIN
 Flim Editor, Writer, Director

GUEST OF HONOURS
Thiru. RTN. D. DEVENDRAN
 Dist. Governor Nominee
 RI. Dist 3233

Thiru. MAADHU BALAJI
 Crazy Creation

followed by family comedy Drama
"Meesai Aanalum Manaivi"

Saturday 27th January 2024 - 6.00pm
 Venue: Mylapore Fine Arts Club - Mylapore

RTN. N. VENKATESH PRESIDENT RCC VIKAS	RTN. R. MUTHUKUMARAN PRESIDENT RC ALANDUR	RTN. M.C. VASANTHAKUMAR PRESIDENT RCC ACCORD
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ONGOING PROJECTS

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ANBAGAM

RCCT continues to contribute monthly provisions to Anbagam, a home for the mentally challenged destitute. Donors for the month of January 2024 were Rotarians Karthikeyan, Della Mehta, Amudha and Ann Deepa Krishnachander.



RETTARI DIALYSIS CENTER

No. of patients treated : 50 Patients

No. of procedures done : 528 Dialysis

EGMORE DIALYSIS CENTER

No of dialysis done - 277 procedures

No. of patients treated : 25 Patients



ACHIEVEMENTS

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Vijay Sarathy spouse of Rtn PP Rajie Vijay Sarathy was the winner of 'Doubles Category' at the Madras Race Club Snooker Tournament held on January 6, 2024.



Rotarian Shyam won the most valuable player award in the PHCC 36th edition cricket tournament held on January 14th, 20024 at Reddy's grounds in Chennai.



Annett Jaden son of Rtn Samuel Mathew and Ann Monica won the Chennai U13 singles championship held on January 21, 2024.



Annett Sushmita daughter of Rtn Dr Vignesh and Ann Dr. Runitha got 5th place in under 10 category- Interschool Chess Competition held at Sree Narayana Mission Senior Secondary School, West Mambalam on eve of Republic Day.





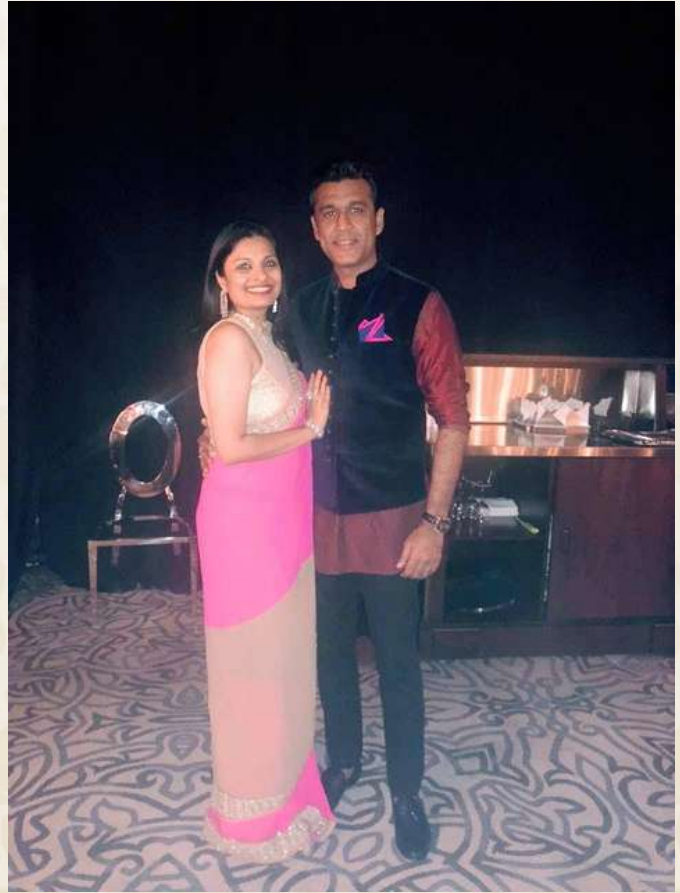
ANNIVERSARY WISHES

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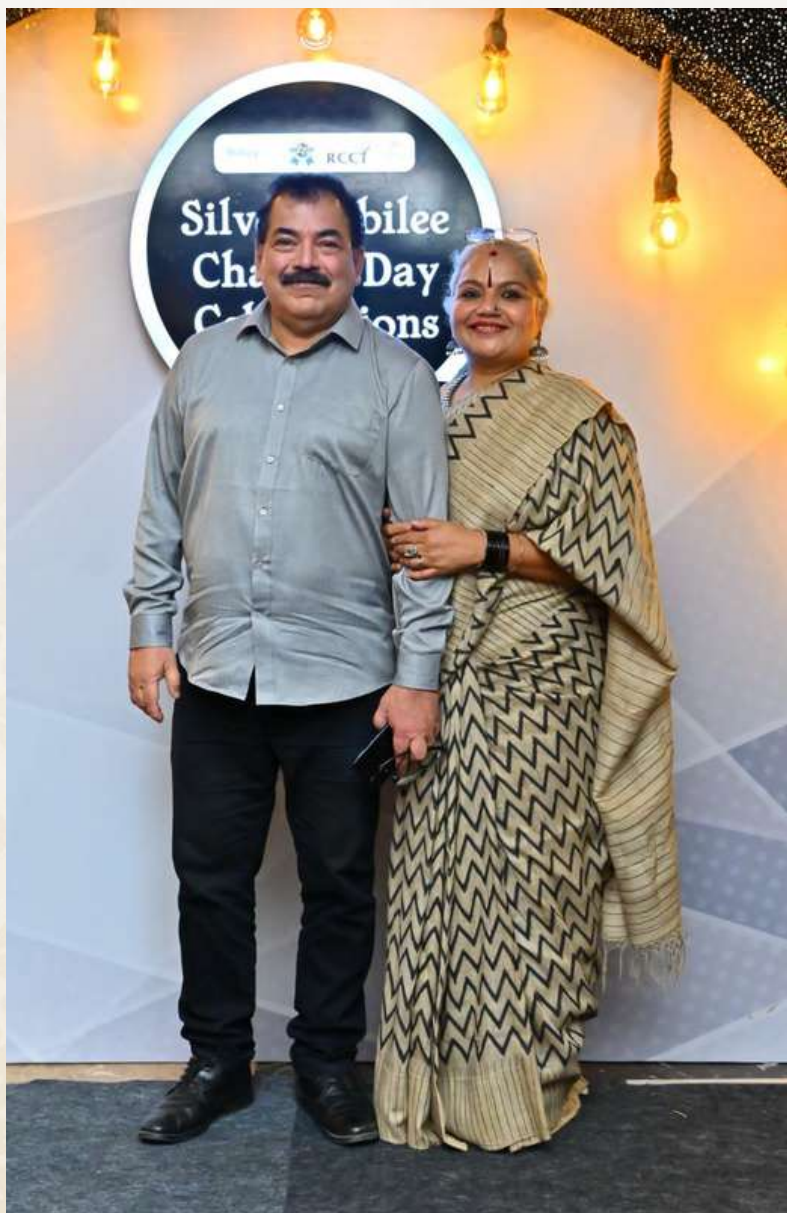
RCCT extends warm wedding anniversary wishes to the lovely couples celebrating their special day!



Rtn Krishnachander
and
Ann Deepa



Rtn Aditya Roongta
and
Ann Swati



Rtn Captain Jayadevan
and
Ann Biju



Rtn Sapna Dinesh
and
spouse Dinesh

JOURNEY OF TOWERS TIMES

From Dravidian structures to stunning colonial era buildings, Chennai houses many unique architectural marvels.

Each cover of our bulletin featured one heritage building of the city.

Bulletin Editor, Ann Anitta Venkatesh made it an interesting read and this novel idea was well appreciated by many at the District and International level. Please read as she shares her experiences as the Editor of Towers Times.

Ann Anuradha Prasad



I was roped in to the Bulletin team by Ann Gita Dattatri, the year we joined the Chennai towers. I have played various roles in the team from collecting articles, compiling the draft, designing and editing for five consecutive years, out of which I was the Editor of Towers Times for two years.

The interaction with the members while collating the articles in the initial two years (as a new member) lead to getting to know the RCCT family faster. It also gave me a crash course on Rotary and RCCT in particular – the various projects and activities we do as a club. The year I took up on designing the bulletin pushed me to a new challenging territory and I learnt something new, which I may never have ventured otherwise.

And finally, as the Editor for two years, it was a transformative experience that extended beyond the realms of editing and design. It was a journey of growth, collaboration, and continuous learning. It improved my patience, commitment, people skills, time management and program management skills.

As I reflect on this chapter of my life, I am grateful for the challenges that sharpened my skills, the achievements that brought fulfilment, and the memorable moments that made the journey truly unforgettable.

-Ann Anitta Venkatesh



BULLETIN TEAM

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Ann Alpana T
Editor



Ann Anuradha Prasad



Ann Priya Vivek