



# SHIVANI NEWSLETTER

June 6, 2010

Dear Shivani Members,

Imagine playing a sprint, hurdles race, steeple chase, weight-lifting and boxing all at the same time ! That is how it was to run the SOA matters during 2009-10.

My personal objective this year was to demonstrate that an association could do much more than just meeting, talking and passing resolutions. We made up for the time lost in the first half by completing several outstanding tasks in the past 5 months :

- The gates with cabins were completed at the ECR entrance, parking spaces were redrawn, car stickers were issued and the traffic & security management were reworked to make life better for the residents and visitors alike. Several hurdles were faced during construction but Patience and perseverance proved helpful in achieving a satisfactory result.
- Reflective Signboards have been displayed at the gates and other strategic locations. Also No-Smoking and No-Parking signs have been erected as necessary.
- Parking spaces remarked around Block-1. Exclusive 2 wheeler & cycle parking are being created in Blocks-2 & 3.
- Work in underway to erect a new fence on the North of Block-3 where a wall was not provided by the builder.
- Termite control was completed for the entire complex with a 5-year warranty. Contracted for cockroach & rodent control for one year.
- Shivani website was launched in February. It carries all the information including bye-laws, forms & news items, related to Shivani.
- Fans & washbasins were installed for the use of community hall users & security staff.
- Granite topped benches, a light and a fence have been added to the garden.

We have made prudent use of the funds collected in earlier years and saved something for the next year too.

Talking about the next year, we have some major work on hand like painting the buildings, repairing the cracks, repairing the damaged pavement, etc. So it is time to discuss them and the money needed.

The MC has planned to conduct the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General-body Meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010. You shall receive a separate note.

In my February Newsletter I had written an appeal to the members under the topic "**Who's burden is the Association?**". As can be predicted, it hasn't moved any, except one sole heart – Mrs.Radha. Not even a single suggestion or mail or blog posting is received regarding how to tackle the serious issues we are facing in managing the association.

As I had written there, the association cannot be run like a proprietary firm – it needs wider participation. It is no joke that a few join the committee with fanfare during the AGM but don't even attend any MC meetings or take up any responsibility. This year we didn't have a secretary for the whole term and in the previous two years for the most part. The worst hurdle I faced this year was lack of cooperation from a majority of MC members. Hence a couple of amendments to the bye-laws is necessary to try and improve this.

Also, you need take note of the serious maintenance related issues. For example, the loss for us in the last one year due to absence of security and maintenance staff is in excess of Rs.45,000. That is, we are paying for a service that we did not get it! There is no value for money and our facility manager seems to consider this as a favour to us. Hence, this is one of the prime issues to on our platter.

So if my message has caused no ripples, it only means that I am the wrong messenger! Now it is open for a new team to take over & run it !!

Well, it is time to stop here, making this my last Newsletter.

**J. Thiyagarajan, President - SOA**

SHIVANI Owners' Association, 40, East Coast Road, Thiruvanimiyur, Chennai 600041. Registration # 108/2006.

Managing Committee 2009-10: **President** : J.Thiyagarajan (III-G3), **Vice-President** **Dropped Out**, **Secretary** : **Dropped Out**, **Jt-Secretary** : Bhanu Ravichandran (II-G3), **Treasurer** : Savitha Guru Prasad (I-6D) **MC Members** : R.Ramasubramanian (I-5D), Mr.V.Chandrasekaran (III-E2), **4 MC Members Dropped Out**