

## 5th Pillar Activities – October 2008

### Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2008

*Name of college* : Women's Christian College, Nungambakkam, Chennai  
*5th Pillar Representative* : Mr. Vijay Anand  
*Date* : Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2008  
*Time* : 1:00 pm  
*No of attendees* : 300

### Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008

The human chain program was a grand success. With over 10 colleges participating in this program along with the general public, they formed a long human chain against corruption along the shores of the Marina beach in Chennai on Oct 2nd. The human chain not only energized the participants but also encouraged the on-lookers, who then formed part of the chain as well, and this chain reaction continued.

Following this program, the participants were provided with training on RTI and how to use the Zero Rupee Note. Everyone took a pledge “Not to Accept or Give Bribe” and also gave their fingerprint marks as evidence to their pledge and participation.

The program was a huge success and 5<sup>th</sup> Pillar intends to conduct this human chain program every year.

*Name of the group / event* : Human chain against Bribe and corruption  
*5th Pillar Representative* : Mr. Vijay Anand, Mr. Nagarajan, Mr. Nambi  
*Venue* : Vivekanandar illam, Marina Beach.  
*Date* : Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 2008  
*Time* : 8 am to 10.30 am  
*Number of attendees* : 900+  
*Participating Colleges* : 1. Queen Mary's college for women  
2. Presidency college  
3. Nandanam Arts College  
4. Children Garden school  
5. Anna Adarsh college for Women  
6. Women's Christian college  
7. Sri Vengateshwara college of Engg  
8. Hindustan college of Arts & science  
9. Government Arts College  
10. B.K.R. college of Engg  
11. Madras Christian college of Higher sec. school  
12. G.S.S. Jain college for women  
13. Saraswathi kendriya mat. Hr. Sec. School

*Pictures:* <http://picasaweb.google.com/indianexplorer/HumanChain#>

**Oct 6 2008**

*Name of the group / event* : Freedom from Corruption  
*5th Pillar Representatives* : Mr.Vijay Anand  
*Event/Gathering hosted by* : Rotary club salem tech city, Rotary club sunstar  
*Participating Organizations* : TNAU students  
*Venue* : Rotary hall, cherry rd near govt arts college, salem  
*Date* : 06 Oct 2008  
*Time* : 10:30 am  
*Number of attendees* : 60

*Description:* Mr. V. Ponmudi, president of Rotary club of salem tech city presided over the function and honored 2 freedom fighters Thiyagi Mr. Narayanan and Thiyagi Mr. Angamuthu, both in their 80s who entered the freedom struggle at ages 12 and 19 respectively. They both emotionally narrated heart-wrenching stories of the various attacks due to British high handedness, their going to jail, and quoted the sacrifice made by all our leaders to attain independence. They also pointed out that it seems that all those efforts are going to a waste and it is high time that the people take control of the situation and justify the sacrifice made by our freedom fighters.

2 Rotary clubs coming together to host an event like this other than their conferences was observed to be matter of significance owing to the importance of 5th pillar's mission. Vijay Anand presented the "Freedom from Corruption". Mr. Vetri facilitated the presentation and technical aspects including collecting contact information etc. Majority expressed and promised support for future projects when Vijay made an appeal that "every rupee they donate, 5th Pillar convert it in to Rs.10". He also briefed about various activities that 5<sup>th</sup> Pillar will take up in the future including the 49-Ocampaign next year, engaging student volunteers in ranking Government offices based on transparency, corruption levels and customer satisfaction etc. The event was covered by Polymer news channel and Dinamalar.

**Oct 6 2008**

*Name of the group / event* : RTI Training  
*5th Pillar Representatives* : Mr.Vijay Anand  
*Event/Gathering sponsored by* : Mr. P.Ravikumar, Proprietor AKR Parcel  
*Venue* : Century Hall, Hotel LR Excellency, salem  
*Date* : 06 Oct 2008  
*Time* : 6:30 pm  
*Number of attendees* : 40

*Description:* The event was attended by a good number of

1. Doctors - Dr.Jey, Dr. Arunanand and Dr. Vijayan
2. Students – Mr. Yuvaraj, Mr. karthik and Mr. thanmaanam from Maha college of engg at Salem

### 3. Social activist:

Mr. Piyush- working on Bhopal and other corporate Crime issues

Mr. Gouthama Bhoopalan- advocate who conducts training and awareness programs for police personnel in Namakkal district

Mr, Chandrasekaran - state president for human rights org

### 4. Government Official: Mrs. Saraswathi Palaniappan, Retd Joint dir of education

Everyone was very supportive and appreciative of the cause. They provided suggestions including that while students conduct survey of the government departments, the name of dept that will be surveyed should not be disclosed until the day of the actual survey. They feared that if prior notification is provided then those departments might pretend to be honest, helpful and friendly to the people during that time. Everyone agreed that 5th Pillar should keep it confidential. They also urged 5th Pillar to appeal the election commission to bring 49o as part of the voting machine instead of in paper as it complicates the process.