



Article Side

Sanmar in the Service of Tennis by [BALAJI](#)

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The article brings out Sanmar's great passion and contribution to tennis. It is about the Group's various initiatives at the State and National level for the game.

Sanmar's long association with tennis has been an important expression of the Group's passion for sport. N Sankar, Chairman, N Kumar, Vice Chairman, and Vijay Sankar, Deputy Chairman, have lent their support to the game in many ways and played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association and such prestigious events as the Chennai Open.

The Group has been a committed sponsor of tennis tournaments at both the state and national levels. TATE (Tamil Nadu Academy for Tennis Excellence), the coaching arm of TNTA, has been one such initiative which Sanmar has supported from the beginning.

This nationally acclaimed tennis academy serves as a platform for budding tennis aspirants, by providing guidance, tournament exposure, as well as facilities for physical training and equipment to the players between 14 and 16 years of age. At its three coaching centres at Chennai, TATE has trained over 400 young tennis players. While Sankar and Kumar have headed the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association at different times and have been part of the All India Tennis Association, they as well as Chairman Emeritus KS Narayanan and Vijay Sankar have been avid amateur tennis players. This has been a key factor in Sanmar's expert guidance of the affairs of the apex tennis bodies and their coaching initiatives.

The Group is the donor of the KS Narayanan Rolling Trophy awarded to the winner of the hugely popular annual Sanmar-TNTA City League tournament for clubs in Chennai in the men's and veteran's categories. Among the winners of the tournament are Madras Cricket Club, Besant Nagar Club, Gandhinagar Club and Madras Gymkhana Club.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response from the participants, the Sanmar-TNTA City tennis tournament went national in 2010. The inaugural edition played outside Tamil Nadu proved a great success, with major tennis clubs from across the country taking part. The Bombay Gymkhana Club emerged as the winner. The event promises to be an important part of the tennis calendar of India.

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[BALAJI](#) - About Author:

S Balaji is a Divisional manager at The Sanmar Group. He takes care of the Corporate Affairs at Sanmar.

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