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## Devotees rewarded for shunning plastic bags during deepam

**TIRUVANNAMALAI:** As part of efforts to create awareness of the harmful effects of plastic on the environment and ensure that plastic carry bags did not create problems during the recently concluded 10-day Karthigai Deepam festival, the district administration and the Tiruvannamalai unit of the pollution control board announced that a reward of 6 gold and 72 silver coins through draw of lots to those who used jute or cloth bags.

As per the offer, devotees must show their cloth or jute bags to officials and collect tokens which would be later used to select winners through a draw of lots. A total of 30,000 devotees collected tokens between 6 pm on November 22 and 6 pm on November 23, the last day of the festival when the Barani and Maha deepams were lit.

Collector KS Kandasamy handed over the gold and silver coins to the winners chosen through lots on Friday.



**Collector Kandasamy handing over a gold coin to a devotee at Tiruvannamalai on Friday**