

SHG VOLUNTEERS SHOW THE WAY TO PLASTIC-ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

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WHILE Tamil Nadu government is taking effective measures to wipe out throwaway plastic products which inflict irreparable harm to the environment, volunteers of self-help groups (SHGs) show the way in propagating and making available alternatives products.

A wide range of non-plastic containers, vessels, bags, plates and other packing materials and carry bags made of decomposable materials are available at a shop opened on the new year's eve in the temple town.

Collector K S Kandasamy launched the shop located at Asalamman Koil street.

Ten SHGs manage the business and the administration of the shop, while as many as 100 volunteers keep supplying the alternative products, with active encouragement and support from the Tiruvannamalai municipality.

"We have trained a batch of 100 volunteers of SHGs in manufacturing the alternative



Following the plastic ban, Collector KS Kandasamy taking a look at the alternative products kept at the SHGs-run shop in the temple town | EXPRESS

plastic products. They are supplying the food packaging products and carry bags," S Parijatham, commissioner of the municipality, told *Express*.

She added, "The aim is to make available a wide range of alternative packaging products to replace the harmful plastic goods which the government has banned."

The municipality has pro-

vided 25x20 feet space free of rent to the SHGs for displaying their products which range from alternative hotel food packaging materials to earthen dustbins.

Small boxes made of sugarcane waste for packaging hotel food items at the shop grab the attention of the visitors, while plates shaped out of areca nut leaves present an ideal foil to the plastic plates.

Earthen tumblers, tea cups and all types of cloth bags meant for keeping vegetables or valuables are also part of an array of products kept for sale. Besides, packing materials for stuffing food and sweet boxes made of aluminium foil occupy the shelves.

The SHG volunteers have ambitiously produce earthen dustbins aimed at replacing the plastic ones.

According to Parijatham, another shop for marketing alternative products will come up on the Girivalam route on Chengam Road soon in order to provide more space to the SHG volunteers to market their products.

Appeal for cooperation

Meanwhile, Collector KS Kandasamy has appealed to the stakeholders to cooperate in enforcing the ban on throwaway plastic goods. While asking the hoteliers and traders to shun plastic goods, he also asked the public to hand over to the civic body staff the plastic goods they have been using or keeping at home.

