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Tamil Nadu - [Nagapattinam](#)

Ecosan toilet contest to be held at Kameshwaram

Special Correspondent

Awards to be given to masons who come out with new ideas



NOTHING GOES WASTE: Shyama Ramani (left), Founder, Friends in Need Trust, Paris, inaugurating compost chamber of an ecosan toilet at Kameshwaram on Saturday.

NAGAPATTINAM: The first innovative ecosan toilet contest in the country will be held in April at tsunami-affected Kameshwaram in the district, which has the highest number of such toilets, said Shyama Ramani, Founder, Friends in Need Trust (FIN Trust), Paris, and Research Professor, French Economic Service, here on Saturday.

She was distributing cash grant letter for Rs.10,000 each to 25 masons who had constructed environment-friendly Ecosan toilets in many parts of the country but had no toilets in their own homes.

Mrs. Ramani said that three cash awards of Rs.3,000, Rs.2,000 and Rs.1,000 would be given to masons who come out with new ideas to construct cost-effective and attractive toilets in a bid to make people feel that the toilet was not just a place for depositing human waste but something more.

The ecosan toilets helped save the quality and quantity of water and use the urine and faeces after composting for increasing food production and ensuring food security.

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V. Ganapathy, Liaison Officer of SCOPE which had associated itself in construction of 350 toilets in the village, said that the second beauty contests for toilets in India would also be held in April in the village.

The total prize money for winners would be Rs.35,000.

K. Venugopal, Assistant General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Nagapattinam, and A. Thanikachalam, lead bank manager, said that an integrated plan for development of Kameshwaram had been drawn up that included establishment of eco-friendly enterprises such as handmade paper unit, scientific farming, dairy farming, vermin-composting, biogas units and Ecosan toilet products.

G. Kanagasundaram, president of Kameshwaram panchayat, said that a special solid waste management programme would be launched in the village.

Earlier, Mrs. Ramani inspected compost chamber of Ecosan toilets at some houses in Kameshwaram.

S. Paranjothi, Field Officer, FIN Trust, Nagapattinam, was present.

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