

Date:28/04/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/28/stories/2010042858260100.htm>

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## Model herbal farm planned



**IMPOSING: A view of Anna Science Centre-Planetarium in Tiruchi. —**

TIRUCHI: The Anna Science Centre – Planetarium here will soon get yet another new facility – a model herbal farm.

The farm, sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre, will come up in an area of 5,000 square feet within the planetarium campus on an outlay of Rs. 3 lakh.

This is the second science centre in the State to get a model herbal farm after the Periyar Science and Technology Centre at Chennai.

The project includes setting up of a vermi compost yard for providing bio manure to the farm.

“The fencing work for the farm will commence within a week and the farm will be

ready by May end," says T. M. Alagiri Swamy Raju, Project Director (in-charge). Anna Science Centre-Planetarium.

While Rs. 2 lakh will be spent for fencing, developing the land and for the vermi compost yard, the rest of the funds will be spent for procuring medicinal plants and herbs. The medicinal plants will be procured from a farm in Puducherry.

Charts explaining the common name, species name, its botanical nomenclature, medicinal efficacy would be displayed for each and every herb in the farm which will be expanded in a phased manner.

The Planetarium has planned to organise awareness programmes to explain the importance of the traditional medicinal plants to the younger generation after the completion of this project, Mr. Raju said.

Referring to the future proposals, Mr. Raju said plans were afoot to set up a 'nature's walk course' in the planetarium campus.

A large number of saplings will be planted to ensure a delightful walk for the Tiruchiites to enjoy nature in the morning hours.

The State government has also assured funds for the setting up of a dinosaur park under the part II scheme.

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## **Subsidy assistance to sericulturists**

Tirupur: Collector C. Samayamoorthy distributed subsidy assistance of Rs. 12 lakh to 20 sericulturists here on recently in an attempt to help them enhance mulberry production.

Official sources said that the financial aid could be used by the beneficiaries to establish modern sheds required for mulberry cultivation.

#### Solatium

Mr. Samayamoorthy also handed over solatium of Rs. 10 lakh to the kin of three persons belonging to the same family in Tirupur district who were killed in a boat accident that took place at Thekkady in Kerala last year.

#### Distress relief

This apart, a total of 45 persons received distress relief of Rs. 4.5 lakh from the Collector and another eight persons received grant of Rs. two lakh in toto which was allocated from the Government exchequer to offset the expenses of major surgeries they underwent.

District Revenue Officer K. V. Muralitharan and Tahsildar M. Balasubramanian were present.

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#### **Farmers express concern over pollution**

Coimbatore: Farmers in Kurumbapalayam, Kullakkapalayam and Podanur in Achipatti area of Pollachi have urged the administration to take steps to control the pollution caused by two companies.

Villagers in a signed memorandum to the Collector pointed out that the pollution emitted by these two companies was effecting the ground water and agricultural lands.

K. Paramasivam of the PAP irrigation committee said that the metal dust coming from these two casting units was affecting the agricultural yield in the nearby farm lands.

In addition, the black smoke that engulfs the villages around the company cause serious health hazards.

The waste that comes out of the units also cause unbearable stink. The waste generated by these units also choke the Parambikulam – Aliyar Project (PAP) canal and the water from this canal that reaches the farms also affect the soil fertility.



## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Wednesday, Apr 28

Max Min

36.5° | 28.2°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 05:51

Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:23

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Apr 29

Max Min

35° | 23°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Apr 30

May 1

May 2

May 3

May 4



35° | 28°

34° | 27°

32° | 27°

32° | 26°

34° | 26°

Tstorm

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