

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

ber recovered from cigarette butts were the main attractions at the stall.

Hafeezur Rehman, a biomedical engineer, said they took up the initiative using corporate social responsibility funds.

“Ten volunteers are involved in collection of butts, which are processed in a unit at Thudiyalur to recover fiber. The cigarette butts are made up of plastic and the process of recovering fiber from it involves fumigation, chemical treatments and UV treatment. The material obtained can be used in making pillows and mattresses,” said Rehman.

The foundation plans to give away pillows and mattresses made using this fiber to government hospitals. “We are planning systematically to collect cigarette butts from liquor shops, tea shops and smoking areas in theatres and malls. Though the venture is financially unviable, we are continuing

with it to create awareness as discarded butts cause harm to the soil and the underground water table by releasing hazardous chemicals.”

Around 2,500 butts are needed to produce one kg of fiber.

Later in the day, the collector distributed Green Champion Award to V Chandrasekhar, coordinator of Siruthuli and founder of One Tree Per Week Foundation.

The corporation, with help of various NGOs, planted saplings at its main building, Periyakulam and on the street between Sungam and Valankulam.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University students organised a human chain to create awareness against the use of plastic bags.

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding commemorated the World Environment Day by organizing various events and an awareness cycle rally. The institute released a song on nature conservation penned by Priya Karanavar and composed and sung by Kannan C S Warriar, a senior principal scientist at the institute.