

**ALL NEWS** 

- Flash News
- National
- World
- News/ Cine Videos
- Tamil Nadu
- Chennai
- Business
- Sports
- Specials
- Entertainment
- News South India
- News Other States
- Metro News
- Education and Careers
- General
- Opinions
- Chennai Corporation
- Railway Info
- Passport Status
- TNEB Billing Status
- Chennai City Info
- E Paper

**METRO NEWS**

**Banganga citizens clean up Banganga temples in Vedic style**

*Sunday, 06.13.2010, (GMT+5.5)*

**Mumbai:** More than 50 citizens rolled up their sleeves for a waste collection campaign organised by non-profit organisation, 'Vishwa', at Banganga area in south of the city.

The volunteers, children, women and senior citizens collected 'nirmalavy' (flowers offered to deity in the temples) from the area's temples, in special 'Vishwa' corrugated boxes yesterday, which were emptied in a special pit created, layered with clay, mud and water to aid recycling, in the Purshuram Mandir.

Over a period of three to four months, the Nirmalavy will merge with clay, mud and water and be converted into organic, eco-friendly compost.

The volunteers also performed an air purification ritual ('agnihotra'- an ayurvedic healing fire that purifies the air in vicinity as well as surrounding areas ), based on the principles of the Vedas, in the Banganga tank area.

The temples at Baganga area in Walkeshwar are visited by hundreds of people who offer puja. After the puja, the floral offerings, including plastic bags, are collected and immersed in the nearby sea.

The campaign is also part of an attempt to educate the pujaris so that they in turn can suggest the same to the vast number of devotees who visit the temples regularly.

"Worship of the deities should not be at the cost of the environment, but should benefit nature and contribute to more sustainable life. Recycling Nirmalavy shows genuine respect for the life giving natural forces and it will help preserve and protect natural resources," the organizers said.

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**EVENTS**

June 2010

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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