

**Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU**

Published: September 16, 2012 00:00 IST | Updated: September 16, 2012 05:05 IST

**Initiative to promote clean seas and coast**

Madurai bureau

*On the International Coastal Cleanup Day*

Spic and span:NSS students cleaning up the beach as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day in Tuticorin on Saturday.— Photo: N. Rajesh

Indian Coast Guard, Tuticorin Station has launched an awareness campaign to promote the importance of clean seas and preserving the coast under the initiative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

Indian Coast Guard personnel coordinated the International Coastal Cleanup Day here on Saturday. The programme, which was presided over by Commandant S.E.D. Anand Kumar, supported by various governmental and non-governmental organisations, evoked a good response.

The cleanup was initiated with the active participation of volunteer groups comprising of the serving staff members and family members of Coast Guard, Municipal Corporation, NCC cadets of Tuticorin, VOC Port Trust employees, Central Industrial Security Force personnel, Home Guards, Marine police, students from St Mary's College, V.O. Chidambaram College, Kamaraj College, VOC Port Trust School and Vikasa School, Mr.Kumar said.

The cleanup activity was carried out along the coast from VOC Port Trust administrative building and continued up to the south of VOC Port Trust guest house. C Veerabahu, Principal, VOC College, Tuticorin flagged off the event. Around 500 participants took part in the event. The participants removed the waste and non bio-degradable materials littered along the coast which in turn motivated the local populace towards maintaining a clean environment.

**Madurai**

Hundreds of volunteers joined the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard personnel in cleaning up the beach along the Ramanathapuram coast on Saturday to mark the Coastal Clean Up Day, a worldwide event to clean beaches and coasts to make the sea shore environment-friendly.

About 1000 people, including school children, NCC cadets, National Service Scheme volunteers and Scouts, joined the personnel attached to the Indian Coast Guard Station, Mandapam, in cleaning the Agnitheertham Beach at Rameswaram; Ariyaman Beach, Uchipuli and the fishermen jetty at Mandapam. The event was inaugurated by Commandant H. H. More, Station Commander, Coast Guard Station.

The exercise, according to Coast Guard personnel, focussed on educating and empowering local people to become part of the marine debris management. The volunteers cleaned up three km of sea shore from 7.30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Indian Navy's coastal clean up exercise was inaugurated by Commander Aniruddha Sohoni, Office in-charge, Naval Detachment, and Area Commander, South, at Thondi.

More In: [TAMIL NADU](#) | [NATIONAL](#)