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Students clear garbage from Guindy park

By P. Oppili

CHENNAI, JAN. 30. Garbage weighing about a tonne was removed from the Guindy National Park during a special drive on Sunday to provide a safer habitat for the animals.

According to K.S.S.V.P. Reddy, wildlife warden, Chennai, a large quantity of garbage was being dumped everyday along the peripheries of the National Park, Sardar Patel Road, Kannigapuram on Velachery side and the area close to the residential quarters of IIT.

The garbage posed a threat to the spotted deer and the endangered black buck in the park. This was what prompted the cleanup, said S. Ramadoss, park range officer.

A total of 60 students from three educational institutions — Guru Nanak, Alpha and SRM College — collected the garbage from 9 a.m to around 1 p.m.

Tube lights, waste cloth, plastic bags, bicycle and two-wheeler tubes, used water and soft drink bottles and non-degradable materials such as plastic bags and bottles were collected, said Mr. Ramadoss.

The students, divided into four groups, were accompanied by wildlife staff and workers. The workers carried gunny bags to collect the garbage. It would later disposed off, said officials.

It is for the first time that the cleaning had been taken up on a large scale, Mr. Reddy said adding that that they were planning to bring in more students on weekends to clear the waste materials from the forest within the city.

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