

Toilet with painted wall wins contest

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Nagapattinam: Tiny but painted in striking hues with bamboo woodwork and innovative features, the sparkling bathrooms at the rear end of each house in the coastal Kameswaram hamlet in Nagapattinam district were decked up for the unusual event – a beauty contest for toilets. The entire village, hit by the tsunami in 2004, was gripped by an air of festivity and 77 toilets had been spruced up for the big event on Saturday.



SHOWING APPRECIATION:
Anjammal Anjappan with her family in front of the toilet that won the beauty contest

For a village where open defecation was an accepted habit until a few years ago, the toilets were clean with some women even drawing kolam (rangoli) at the entrance. Some toilets had pictorial messages on hygiene and sanitation. The villagers made innovations to the toilets, like towel hangers made of bamboo.

At the end of the day, the toilet of Anjammal Anjappan won the title 'Most Beautiful Toilet' for 'beauty and maintenance'. The bright painting on the outer wall depicting a fishing boat surging ahead of frothing waves won the award for the toilet. Proper usage of the toilet and use by all members of the family were also taken into account while awarding the prize that carried a purse of Rs 2,500.

An award was also presented to Nagavalli Lakshmanan for maintaining a kitchen garden with water and urine let out from the toilet.