

Exclusive
travel section inside

Potato: Farming this unassuming tuber was a tradition, until recently. A review on p 10, 11

Alcoholism: upto 20% of alcohol drinkers become alcoholics. A perspective from a social worker, p 4

Rs. 12/-



Next issue: Heritage abused
The small paper with a big view



The Local

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NILGIRIS

Honey Hunters.

The Local Correspondent

The Kurumbas have been traditionally forest dwellers. Their skills at honey hunting have been globally renowned but their's is an uphill challenge.

pic. courtesy: Keystone Foundation



World Indigenous People's Day is observed on Aug 9, every year.

In full colour centrespread
Inside
Honey hunting

Smart school bags

Advertisement

Nilga Apparel, introduced its special range of school bags last year. According to Mr Amar Sancheti, who oversees the educational institutions' requirements on behalf of the company, their longstanding experience with canvas, especially the rainwear which they supply to the tea industry, had inspired them to venture into school bags.

The bags are light, equipped with adjustable straps and have neatly divided compartments for books and sports kit separately.

Vaishnav Anil, a Std 5 student of Riverside Public School, Kotagiri, which has recently incorporated the smart school bags, says 'It is spacious. I can put everything in it, including my water bottle!'

The school bags, according to Mr Sancheti, are 100% water-resistant and have the capability to keep out water even in a heavy downpour.

Customised,
light weight
school bags

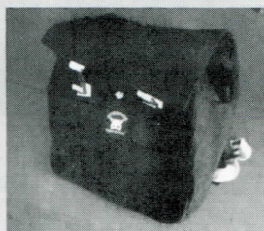
Material: Canvas

No of compartments: 2

Extra features: adjustable straps,
school logo in tag format

Sizes: Small, medium, large

Price: On request



Contact: Nilga Apparel, NKN Complex, Bedford, Coonoor, Nilgiris-643 101.
Ph (0423) 2230224 email:vaishali.ent@gmail.com

Nilga, as a brand, was registered in the year 1942 by the London based Bailey Brothers, having an office in Coimbatore. Primarily engaged in the manufacture of raincoats, the brand derived its name from the Nilgiri Tahr, a unique deer breed renowned for its resilient all-weather coat.



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Letters to the Editor

Sir, I was delighted to have The Local back at my doorstep! Living in a concrete city like Bangalore, your magazine for me is the much-needed breath of fresh air that rejuvenates and reconnects me to the place I love. The new format is compact. The back-burner cover story was an eye-opener that made me immediately check the weight of my daughter's school bag. I thoroughly enjoyed the story of the Sullivan's Bungalow and was quite disappointed with myself that in spite of being a thoroughbred native of Nilgiris, I had not seen it yet! It's a must-see on my next visit! Thank you for uncovering such beautiful memories for us with every edition of The Local. Keep up the good work. All good things will last to the very end.

Valentina Hubert, Koramangala, Bangalore

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to thelocaleditor@gmail.com or posted to the address mentioned on p16.

Stanes Higher Secondary School, Coonoor completes its 150th year celebrations (1858-2008), with the unveiling of a statue of its founder Thomas Stanes. The bust of the renowned educationist will be unveiled by former President of India, Shri APJ Abdul Kalam at the school premises on 14th Aug 2009. According to school authorities, members of the Alumni Association and local dignitaries alongwith senior students of the school, will observe the historic event.

**Former President
Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam,
to unveil statue of
Thomas Stanes.**



Event of the month

150
1858-2008

Keystone Foundation sets up Nature Interpretation Centre at Sathyamangalam.

Sumin George

The Elephant Valley Eco-tourism project, an initiative of the Sathyamangalam Forest Division, is a unique venture and the first of its kind within a territorial division.

30.8% of the forests in India come under the protected areas and 51.6% remain within the jurisdiction of the Forest Divisions as Reserve Forests under territorial divisions. Sathyamangalam has 1455.31sq.km. of forests within its boundaries. The Elephant Valley Interpretation Centre portrays images and information which speak about this bountiful region, its natural heritage, geography and people.

This building was built in 1973 and referred to as the 'Tool Shed' since it was used as a shed for maintenance and repair of the coupe vehicles of the forest division. Fuel wood coupes were stopped in 1975, further to which selection felling was stopped in 1980, after which the 'Tool Shed' was utilised as a storehouse for forest produce that were procured by the LAMPS Society. It later came to be used by the Special Task Force during their combing operations in the Sathyamangalam forests. After the operations were discontinued the 'Tool Shed' was abandoned.

It is with the co-operation and understanding of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Sathyamangalam division, that this center has been revitalised as an interpretation centre. Keystone Foundation, a Trust working in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve on issues related to forests and indigenous people has designed and installed the information.

Thumbithakadu, a value addition centre located at Hasanur has come forward to renovate the building and run an eco-shop and café. Funds for the renovation of the centre were also made available from the Village Forest Council of Gedessal. The Interpretation Centre will be managed and maintained by the Village Forest Council of Gedessal. The revenue generated from the centre will be utilized for conservation activities undertaken by the village forest councils. □

The writer is an Addl. Co-ordinator at Keystone Foundation