

One lakh saplings planted

Bharathidasan University initiative covers 250 villages



FUTURE PERFECT: Students of Rajah Serfoji Government Arts College in Thanjavur planting tree saplings on Tuesday. —Photo: M. Srinath

Staff Reporter

TIRUCHI: Bharathidasan University took a major step towards increasing green cover in association with the Isha Yoga Centre by getting over one lakh saplings planted in 250 villages across eight districts in its jurisdiction with the participation of over 20,000 NSS volunteers on Tuesday.

Vice-Chancellor M. Ponnaivaikko launched the greening campaign by planting saplings on the University premises in the presence of Registrar T. Ramaswamy and NSS Coordinator K. Kanagaraju. Lions District Governor P.

Panneerselvam and president of Tiruchi Premier Lions Club, Somasundaram were also present on the occasion. The club had arranged for the transport of saplings to 95 colleges from nurseries.

Green campus

A total of 1,500 saplings were planted in the campus. The university has plans to make its 650-acre campus teem with trees in the coming years.

With the earth facing a frightening rate of global warming due to large-scale depletion of forest cover necessitated by increasing population, large-scale afforestation is the only viable

solution to maintain the balance of flora and fauna, and ensuring adequate rainfall, Prof. Ponnaivaikko said.

Monitoring committees would be formed and NSS units that register achievements in raising the saplings would be honoured with prizes, the Vice-Chancellor said.

He emphasised the need for increasing green cover as a service to the future generations.

The hour-long planting of saplings was simultaneously carried out in all other colleges throughout the district, and at those in Pudukottai, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Thanjavur districts.

Thanjavur

At a function held at Rajah Serfoji Government Arts College in Thanjavur, NSS volunteers planted hundreds of saplings in the huge campus. College Principal in-charge S.Chandrasekaran presided. The initiative was carried out in the presence of T.Arivudainambi, Syndicate member of Bharathidasan University.

Similarly, students of Bon Secours College for Women, Kundavai Nachiyar Government Government in Thanjavur and several other colleges in Thanjavur and Tiruvarur districts planted saplings in their institution premises and in villages.