Green School Movement Launched

Express News Service

Salem: The Isha Foundation’s Project GreenHands (PGH), jointly with the Department of School Education, launched the Green School Movement in Salem on Tuesday at Little Flower Higher Secondary School.

Salem Chief Educational Officer K Selvakumar explained the initiative to the heads of schools and eco-club coordinators, and affirmed the department’s support to the Salem Green Movement.

As many as 450 schools from the district will participate in the programme this year. They will plant nine lakh saplings.

Among those present at the function were Additional CEO P Usha, Matriculation School Inspector L Venkatapathy, Salem DEO K Ramalingam and Sankari DEO R Indiragandhi.

Launched in 2011, the Green School Movement has facilitated the planting of over 25 lakh saplings so far. The movement involves schoolchildren, who are members of the National Green Corps (NGC) and eco-club members, in producing 2,000 saplings per school per year. The required seeds, covers and technical assistance are provided by Project GreenHands. The project has been launched in a few other districts and in Puducherry. The movement is part of Isha Foundation’s plan to plant 40 lakh saplings this year.

According to Isha Foundation’s spokesperson, the movement envisions raising nurseries in schools. These nurseries will produce saplings and also help spread awareness among students about the environment and ecology. The children will be involved in all the nursery activities from sowing seeds, filling covers, transplantation, watering, weeding and maintenance of the saplings.

The saplings will be planted in the school premises and also be distributed to the children to be planted in their house premises.

PGH aims to increase the green cover of Tamil Nadu by 10 per cent by planting trees. It has so far helped over 20 lakh volunteers to plant over 1.7 crore trees.