CAUVERY BASIN MOVEMENT TO KICKSTART

Inaugurating the Rural Sports Meet at Texvalley in Erode, Isha Foundation's founder Sadguru says that it was high time we bridged the demand-supply gap by improving agricultural sector, and the CBM initiative, he believes, would help achieve the same.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Erode

Isha Foundation plans to start Cauvery Basin Movement soon to arrest the displacement of the river water; said its founder Sadguru, after inaugurating the Rural Sports Meet at Texvalley in Erode on Sunday.

Stating that he had already spoken to Karnataka government about starting the movement, he said that he would discuss it with the Tamil Nadu government too.

While the river was a national asset, Tamil Nadu was receiving only 59 per cent of water promised to it a few years ago, he added. Suggesting that the river water had a lot of significance for the State, he explained that Tamil Nadu was in a better position in the country in various aspects, when compared to other states.

However, there were many socio-economic issues that needed to be sorted out. It was high time that we addressed the demand-supply gap by improving agriculture, he added.

This required water and soil and the need to promote the Cauvery Basin Movement, he added.

Speaking about the country's textile sector, he talked about how India had once supplied 60 per cent of the world's textile needs. However, it was the last world to be India. He pointed out that today's global share is dwarfed. In order to promote textile sector, it was necessary to focus on agriculture, which had ample scope for job opportunities, he suggested.

About the sporting event, he stated that he was holding such programmes to revive traditional sports and thereby culture and tradition. Over 40,000 people from across the State took part in the meet.

While states like Andhra Pradesh had necessary facilities to nurture sports persons, many other states did not have the same facilities. Hence, the Foundation had plans to start a sports academy in Tamil Nadu in a couple of months. Infrastructure would be created in every district headquarters, Sadguru detailed.

Expressing belief that this initiative would help make Tamil Nadu a 'Sports State', he said that like America and Russia, India should also focus more on sports to shine in the global arena by the year 2020. Hence, he had planned to seek the help of corporate companies to nurture local talents under corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.

Weight-lifting champ welcomes initiative

Welcoming Sadguru's initiative to establish a sports academy to promote games, including wrestling, weight lifting and boxing, Mallari also assured to extend a helping hand. "Both male and female sports persons face equal issues. Each sports person requires $5,000-8,000 per month for training, to maintain diet, etc. It is important to extend more support to promote sports in India," she added.

Soon after he said this, Education Minister K A Sengottayan, who was present, responded positively. The necessary help would be provided after getting the Chief Minister's approval, he said.

The Sahdhu also said that many had become flabby after the introduction of the western system of education. Such a system is of no use; it brings no benefit to the student's intelligence, his life, or his soul and does not raise him to great heights.

To achieve something, one's mind as well as physical condition should be perfect. Only sports can ensure this perfection for us, he said.

One can run, run or even lead a marred life without involvement. But one cannot play games without involvement. That is why he insists on some sports activity in day to day life so that the physical and mental states are in tandem. Even husband and wife playing games in their own house would help them to lead cheerful lives.

Many people have grim faces while doing something important. If work is done with a sporting attitude, one can enjoy the work, he said. In this wide universe, the "Sun family" is a small one, and even in it, the Earth is just a satellite. But many have big ego's and think of themselves as something great. To be happy, we should shed this ego. This can be achieved through sports as it will ensure a balance of mind to see victory and defeat alike, the Sahdhu added.

Project underway to set up sports centres in all Tamil Nadu districts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Erode

The Isha Foundation is preparing a project to set up sports complexes in all 32 districts of Tamil Nadu to train children from the age of eight as many of them could not go to places like Chennai or New Delhi for sports training.

The project report would be submitted to the government in two months, Isha chairman Sadguru said at its Gramotsavam event here on Sunday. He also requested the government's support to carry it out.

Isha also has plans to establish a separate academy for archery, shooting, weightlifting and boxing. Olympian Karmen Mallari has assured Isha of her support for the same, he added.

Ministers hail Isha Foundation for promoting spirituality, sports in State

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Erode

The government is taking many steps to promote sports and help sportspersons. Rural Development Minister S P Ummalai said at the Isha Gramotsavam here on Sunday. The State was a large state and the government was doing its best to promote sports and help sportspersons every year.

To encourage sports, the government is also creating the necessary infrastructure, he said and urged youths to utilise the facilities and the incentives to shine in sports, which also bring out leadership qualities among youths and inculcate team spirit in them, he said.

Isha Gramotsavam, he added, would promote sports in the State's rural areas.

In his speech, Environment Minister K G Karuppannan praised Isha for its yoga programmes, under which yoga teachers are sent to villages. It helps them to maintain their health in good condition. Also, just by meditating by the Dhyanalinga at the Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore gives one a new experience, he added.

Electricity Minister B Thangamani said that participation in sports would help people cross narrow barriers like caste, creed, religion, states, nation, etc. Isha's efforts to conduct such sports meets will help promote tolerance and cooperation and brotherhood among the people of the country and unite them, he added.

Education Minister K A Sengottaiyan praised Isha for promoting spiritual and the spread of scientific awareness all over the world. Spirituality can prevent people from going in the wrong direction. At the same time, sports events like Gramotsavam will make the love of people in rural areas happier. Participation in such sports meets like Gramotsavam can also teach set back.

Collector C Kathiravan and MAs K Thamaraian and E M Balaji, among others, were also present at the function.

Sports varsity to promote traditional games: Guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Erode

The Tamil Nadu Sports University will be directed to promote traditional games and sports, on the lines of Isha Foundation, in its situation. The traditional sports and games like volleyball, kabaddi and throwball were among the rural sports events. Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who is also the university's Chancellor, said here on Sunday.

The governor, who was addressing the Gramotsavam of Isha Foundation at Texvalley, near here, said such games showed the nation's richness. They have simple rules and do not need large venues. He himself had played volleyball during his school days. It was included in the Olympics only in the 1950s, but people had played that game for many years in India, he added.

Lauding the Isha chairman Sadguru for promoting such games and yoga in rural areas and schools, the Governor said he was happy to note that more than 50,000 people participated in the Gramotsavam.

Only Sohag could have mobilised such a large crowd for a sports event like this, he added. Those who participated in such events in such a large crowd will not only win medals, but also learn to take bold decisions. Quoting Swayam Vivekananda, Kalidasa and Martin Luther King, the Governor said Isha promotion self-confidence and brotherhood.

"Government plans to seek help from companies"}

Expressing belief that the initiative would help make Tamil Nadu a 'Sports State', Sadguru said that like America and Russia, India should also focus more on sports to shine in the global arena by the year 2020. Hence, he had planned to seek the help of corporate companies to nurture local talents under corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes.

"Weight-lifting champ welcomes initiative"

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