

Karunanidhi for planting more saplings

Isha Foundation to undertake mass plantation across Tamil Nadu

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi planted a couple of saplings outside his residence at Gopalapuram here on Sunday as a precursor to the proposed initiative of Isha Foundation to undertake mass plantation of seven lakh saplings across Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

Stress on growing trees

An official release said Mr. Karunanidhi, during his interaction with the Foundation founder, Jaggi Vasudev, underlined the significance of planting more trees.

If people grow trees, the trees would help them grow, the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Karunanidhi's wife Dayalu Ammal, Local Administration Minister M.K. Stalin, Electricity Minister Arcot N. Veerasamy and Chief Secretary L.K. Tripathy were present at the brief function.

Green cover

'Project Green Hands' of the Coimbatore-based non-government organisation is a component of its plan to increase the green cover of the State.

For the mass plantation in 27 districts, the Isha Foundation will mobilise around 2.20 lakh volunteers besides roping in schoolchildren and villagers.

A record

A Foundation release said planting of seven lakh saplings would be a record and all documents pertaining to the initiative were to be sent

- Isha Foundation to mobilise around 2.20 lakh volunteers

- Focus on Tamil Nadu

- 11.4 crore trees to be grown in next 10 years

to Guinness Book of World Records.

Sadhguru Vasudev, responding to queries from presspersons, however, said it was unfortunate that a mere seven lakh was going to be a record. He said, "I want to see everybody break the record ... trees protect the land that nurture us."

Public awareness

Underlining the need to create greater public awareness of greenery, he said the initiative on Tuesday would not be just "plant and forget" as those getting involved in the exercise would commit themselves to taking care of the trees for two years.

Sadhguru Vasudev said Tamil Nadu was the focus State of the Foundation's project, while it was doing symbolic works in this area in New Delhi and Mumbai.

This had become necessary as according to reports 60 per cent of the State would become desert by 2025.

Towards this the Foundation had initiated 'Project Green Hands' under which 11.4 crore trees were to be planted in the next 10 years.



EXTENDING GREEN COVER: Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi planting a sapling in front of his residence to mark the inauguration of 'Mass Tree Planting Marathon,' organised by Isha Foundation, in Chennai on Sunday. Jaggi Vasudev (right) looks on. - PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN