Green shield against nature’s fury urged

By S Gururajan

Coimbatore, Dec 7: A planned development coupled with green cover on a massive scale would protect people from the fury of nature, said Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore.

He was reacting to the recent havoc caused by the torrential rains that battered various parts of Tamil Nadu, causing extensive loss of life and damage to property.

He attributed the ordeals of the public to the unplanned growth of cities and construction of dwelling units on water sources like lakes and tanks. “Of course, this year the amount of rain was more than expected. The rain waters entered residential localities due to the absence of outlets,” he pointed out. However, he said neither bureaucrats nor politicians could be held responsible for the sufferings of the people. Rains and floods were bound to happen here or elsewhere, he added. Predicting that there would be more rains next year, the Sadguru said people could handle the situation provided they create a green cover by planting more trees on a massive scale and asserted that the green cover would hold excessive water from heavy rains. The green wing of the Isha Yoga Centre had planted more than five lakh trees over the past five years and it has drawn up an ambitious project to plant nearly five crores of saplings in the next five years.

Expressing concern over the steep increase in population, the Sadguru said people should be educated on the need to adopt family planning methods. “No one should be compelled to stick to family planning. On the contrary, they should be educated,” he asserted. A uniform policy should be evolved to make it acceptable by all segments of the society, he suggested.