THE HINDU 25 NOV 2007

"Plant saplings, preserve nature"

Foundation stone for Alagappa Park laid

Staff Reporter

SIVAGANGA: The Union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, has appealed to the people and the local bodies to start a mass movement to preserve nature and plant seedlings massively.

Laying the foundation stone for Alagappa Park to be established at a cost of Rs.1.18 crore at Devakottai near here on Saturday, he said that it was imperative to start the movement in the wake of climate changes.

Scientists had expressed feared that a lot of changes would take place in the near future worldwide, including India, because of climate changes.

Countries had decided to find a consensus on fighting against the impact of climate changes within eight years, the Minister said.

The Central Government had established a National Council for Climate Changes under the leadership of the Prime Minister to take stock of the situation and chalk out a plan of action.

Mr. Chidambaram said that he had impressed upon the need for taking proper steps to fight the climate changes in his budget speech. The country had to share its responsibility to face challenges over preserving environment.

Each and every citizen of the country had a responsibility to preserve the nature from destruction.

Appreciating the Isha Yoga Foundation for its initiatives to plant 2.5 crore seedlings, the Minister said that similar kinds of initiative should be started by others aimed at preserving the nature.

He said the amount sanctioned under the Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana for establishing the park should be properly utilised.

Moreover, enough attention should be paid to maintain the park.

Presiding over the function, Collector, Pankaj Kumar Bansal, said the proposed park on 12 acres was almost equivalent to the parks in Chennai and Madurai.

K.R. Ramasamy, Thiruvadanai MLA, said that the Government should take steps to include Devakottai municipality in the Cauvery drinking water scheme.

N. Sundaram, MLA, and Sub-Collector, Tharus Ahamed, spoke.

Earlier, A. Velusamy, Chairman, Devakottai municipality, welcomed the gathering. N. Manohar, Commissioner, proposed a vote of thanks.