The former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, presenting the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar-2008 to Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, during a World Environment Day function in New Delhi on Saturday. Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Salman Khursheed (left) and Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology Sachin Pilot are with them. – PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The government sees a big role for the corporate sector in the recently-launched Green India Mission, according to Director-General of Forests P.J. Dilip Kumar.

"They are sitting on hundreds of thousands of hectares of land that is very well protected," he said, speaking at a celebration of Environment Day here on Saturday. "So, we have kept a big role for them."

The department would increase the use of information and communication technology to monitor its efforts in real time. "We need to dispel the impression that once we plant a tree, we forget about it," he said.

Isha Foundation honoured

Coimbatore-based Isha Foundation was honoured on the occasion for tree-planting in record numbers. In 2004, it started 'Project Green Hands' to carry out mass tree plantation in Tamil Nadu, earning a Guinness record by planting more than 8.5 lakh trees on a single day in October 2006. Its founder Sadhguru J. Vasudev was presented with the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar by the former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The country must aim to increase the forest cover to 50 per cent by 2035, said Mr. Kalam. "A billion trees for a billion Indians," he added.
Environment Day honour

Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam presents the Indira Gandhi Environment Award to Sadguru Vasudev of the Isha Foundation for their tree plantation work to mark World Environment Day in New Delhi on Saturday. Also seen in the photograph are minister for corporate affairs and minority affairs Salman Khurshid and minister of state for communications and IT Sachin Pilot.

PHOTO: Sondeep Shankar
The former President, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, presenting the Indira Gandhi Purvavaran Paraskar-2008 to Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev of Isha Foundation, during World Environment Day function in New Delhi on Saturday. Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Salman Khursheed (left) and Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology Sachin Pilot are also present. PHOTO: RAJEEV BHATT