

● ISHA INITIATIVE

Stalin plants Green Tirupur movement



EXPRESS

Film actors Prakashraj (L) and Shreya (third from R) inaugurating the 'Green Marathon' in the presence of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev (second from L) at Town Hall ground in Tirupur on Sunday

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IN AN initiative to make Tirupur green, about 25,000 tree saplings were planted in the industrial city, under the aegis of Isha Foundation, on Sunday.

After Deputy Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the programme, planting the first sapling, around 5000 volunteers from Isha Foundation started planting trees all over the city and completed the target of 25,000 saplings by evening.

While speaking to reporters, Stalin appreciated the Isha's project and also called upon the public to take up their own initiative to plant more trees and to nurture them.

Delivering special address on the occasion, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Foundation, said, "Estimating the industrial development of Tirupur city and the resulting environmental problems, I had advised to go for green movement, 17 years ago." He also insisted on the involvement of public in the planting and nurturing of trees that could make Project Green Hands (PGH), which aims to plant 12 crore saplings across the state, a success.

"Most of the small rivers have vanished and the major rivers are witnessing just seasonal water flow due to drastic changes in environment and climate. Everyone should take responsibility to save the water sources by preserving the trees," he added.

It may be noted that under the PGH scheme, Isha has already planted nearly 71 lakh saplings across the state with the participation of 20 lakh volunteers. "The industrialisation has helped the city attain significant economic growth in the last 60 years. But it is paying a heavy price for this. To counter the excessive environmental degradation and pollution, PGH along with the volunteers from Tirupur have planted trees here and will nurture them for a period of three years," said a project coordinator of PGH.

Highways Minister M P Saminathan, Information Technology Minister Poongothai Aladi Aruna, Tirupur Corporation Mayor K Selvaraj, film actors Prakash Raj, Shreya and green ambassadors of the project attended.