

Isha Foundation strives to bring self-sufficiency in villages

Coimbatore, Dec 13:

The Isha Foundation at Poondi has embarked on a mega project to create model villages.

"The aim of the project is development and self-sufficiency in villages," Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Foundation, said adding that solutions to the specific needs of the villages would be provided to ensure their development.

Initially, Periyakalandai near Kinathukadavu in Pollachi, Mullampalayam in Salem and Periyakuppam in Chennai would be converted into model villages, the Sadhguru said.

The issues that would be addressed through the project include education, health care, economic empowerment, youth development, development of basic infrastructure, preservation of cultural heritage and offering of legal aid and arbitration services, he said.

The project would focus on hygiene and sanitation by holding sensitisation programmes and providing sanitation facilities. It would initiate measures to increase life expectancy at birth and promote maternal health by providing anti-natal/post-natal care.

Steps would be taken up to reduce infant mortality rate and Under-5 mortality rate and to fight malnourishment.

It would discourage the use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol. Health camps would be conducted to make the villagers aware of the ways to prevent AIDS and other diseases. Herbal gardens

would be raised as part of popularising alternative medicine.

The Sadhguru said attention would be given to empowerment of the underprivileged specially women by upgrading their entrepreneurial skills. Camps would be organised to create awareness on social values, gender equality and violence against women.

Efforts would be made to demystify psychiatric disorders in the rural society.

A mechanism would be developed to take care of the law and order situation in villages.

Training would be provided in disas-

ter management. To attain self-sufficiency in power needs, the villagers would be motivated to tap non-conventional renewable energy sources like solar and wind power by creating wind and water mills.

Steps would be taken to integrate Dalits into social and economic life of the village. Vocational training would be imparted to the youth so that they would get employment.

Yoga, community games and tournaments would be organised for the psycho-social well being of the people, and community recreation centres would be established, the Sadguru said.

Island park planned in Hosur lake

Hosur, Dec 13:

A unique island park is likely to come up in Ramanaicken Lake in Hosur, thanks to the steps taken by the district administration.

Ramanaicken Lake, constructed by King Rama of Hoysala dynasty in the 17th century, is one of the biggest lakes in Krishnagiri district.

It is situated at the centre of the industrial town surrounded by residential and commercial establishments.

After a proposal to set up an IT park in Hosur, the State Government had directed the Krishnagiri district administration to take up various projects in a bid to improve the infrastructure, in the Hosur industrial town, that met the international standards.

The current proposal of setting up an island park was a part of IT promotion in the industrial town, Collector M R Sharma said. To promote the lake project, the district administration had formed a committee headed by Sub-Collector R Anand Kumar. It also comprised Hosur MLA, ASP, Block Development Officer and tahsildar.

Within 15 days of the formation of the committee, it received a fund of Rs 10 lakh from the public. The lake beatification project included setting up an island resort, swimming pool and a boat-house. A passage walkway would also be constructed around the lake for the fitness freaks. The foundation for the project is expected to be laid on the new year (2006).