

# The Rising SUN

A PROGRESSIVE ENGLISH WEEKLY



- ♣ Secular Rule
- ♣ Religious Harmony
- ♣ Social Justice
- ♣ Equality and
- ♣ Democracy

FOUNDER: KALAINGAR M.KARUNANIDHI



## Nurture trees, not religion: Kalaignar

"I am fond of spiritual leaders who grow trees and not religion," said Chief Minister and DMK President Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi in Chennai on September 23. Planting saplings to mark the launch of a project to plant 25 million trees by the Isha Foundation, the Chief Minister said religious feelings if promoted would only instigate annihilation while socially responsible acts such as greening the environment would sustain livelihood.

"Spreading religion will only lead to exhortations to behead or cut a person's limbs and tongue, whereas planting trees will benefit the people and help future generations," he said.

In the presence of spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, the Chief Minister said he nurtured affection

towards pontiffs and spiritual leaders who promoted Tamil language and environment.

"I am fond of pontiff late Kundrakudi Adigal because of his contribution to Tamil language and I have the same amount of affection for junior pontiff of the Kundrakudi mutt. I like Sadhguru because he grows trees," the Chief Minister said.

Lauding the efforts of Sadhguru and the reach of his spiritual teachings to people living in both cities and villages, Kalaignar said, "If all saints were like this, the country's growth would be tremendous."

"If we raise trees, they would rear us," he said, adding that each and every person should have the responsibility to grow trees and pointed out that in monarchy, kings like Ashoka had taken up the green drive and later in democracy, the government gave importance to it and dedicated even a week for tree plantation.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over scores of banners and hoardings erected along roadsides. "Unlike metropolises like Delhi and Bangalore which are known for greenery, Chennai has banners lined up instead of trees. These advertisement hoardings and political banners are kept even for a year," he said.

He also asked the officials, field officers and those who obtain and grant stay for hoardings to have concern over environment. "At least hereafter, Chennai should have green cover," he said and urged the implementing agencies to

evince interest in protecting the trees from cattle after planting them.

The nation and the world would be better off, if all the ascetics follow the path shown by Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, in environmental protection, the Chief Minister said.

Kalaignar, who distributed prizes to winners of rural sports contests, said that: "by nurturing trees, we will nurture humanity."

DMK MP Poet Kanimozhi said religion was created to develop mankind and not for destruction and bloodshed. She

emphasised the need to protect environment and expressed concern over its exploitation in the name of growth and economy. "Religion was meant for elevating people, not to divide them" she added.

Thiru. D.R.Karthikeyan, Former Director of CBI, Tmt. Sudha Raghunathan, musician, welcomed the gathering. DMK ministers Thiru K.N. Nehru, Thiru Parithi Ilamvazhuthi, Thiru E.V. Velu and Thiru Swaminathan and Chennai Mayor Thiru M. Subramanian took part in the function.

### Rs. 5 lakh for Dinesh Kaarthick

Tamil Nadu government has announced Rs. 5 lakh cash award for Tamil Nadu cricketer Dinesh Kaarthick who was part of the Twenty20 Indian squad that won the world cup at South Africa. This was announced by the Chief Minister Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, who also lauded the cricketer's performance at the tournament.



### "Let us unite and face threats"

UPA Chairperson Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, responding to the threat of religious bigots on the life of Chief Minister Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi, expressed her determination to face such threats by standing united.

She contacted Union Minister and DMK Parliamentary Party leader Thiru T.R. Baalu over phone and said:

"Let us face such problems by standing united! Let us not cower down to such threats and continue to concentrate on our tasks for the people!"

Tmt. Sonia Gandhi told Thiru T.R.Baalu to convey her enquiry regarding this to Kalaignar.

