

City to now keep SPB's memory evergreen

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Coimbatore: In a green tribute to the late singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, Siruthuli, an environmental NGO, would create an urban forest in the city.

The initiative was launched on the Siruthuli campus near Valankulam on Thursday. Named 'SPB Vanam', the urban forest would have 74 species of trees to mark 74 years of SPB's life.

SPB's son S P Charan and sister S P Shailaja participated in the inaugural event through video conferencing and expressed their gratitude. "I am honoured. I am touched by the love and affection shown to my father," Charan said.



P Sreedharan

FAVOURITE FOREVER: Siruthuli, an environmental NGO, would create an urban forest named SPB vanam in the city

Vanitha Mohan, managing trustee of Siruthuli, says the SPB Vanam would feature trees that are used for musical instruments. Along with these

saplings, there would be sthala vrikshams of temples that SPB had visited and sung. A cham-paka tree, symbolic of his birth star Ayilyam, would also find a

place in the urban forest. Each tree would be named after a popular song sung by SPB.

Charan planted a jackfruit sapling, while Shailaja planted a mango sapling. The wood of these two trees are used extensively to make musical instruments. Maestro A R Rahman and singer Srinivas, meanwhile, paid their tribute through a video clip. Representatives of SPB Fans Charitable Foundation also participated in the event.

The initial plan was to set up the SPB Vanam on four acres land within the Coimbatore Central Prison, with the inmates nurturing the saplings. Prison officials were scheduled to participate in the

event. Siruthuli had in the past created a 'Kalam Vanam', which the inmates are maintaining, in the prison.

But the site was changed at the last moment on Thursday. A representative of Siruthuli said, "We would find an alternative space and shift the saplings from our campus."

The event was organized to coincide with the late President A P J Abdul Kalam's 89th birth anniversary. A statement from Siruthuli said the urban forest would house trees such as red sanders, rosewood, neem, mahogany, silver oak, sandalwood, teak, pungai, karungali, kadamba, bamboo, marudham, magizham, vanni, naaval and manoranjitham.