

Country's full-fledged Butterfly Park opens

Conservation centre is symbol of Team India: Kapil Sibal

Express News Service

Nov 25

AFTER passing through the stages of larvae, pupae and adult, the Butterfly Park finally 'metamorphosed' on Saturday. Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Kapil Sibal dedicated the first-of-its-kind Butterfly Park to the nation by releasing the butterflies from a jar, that were breeding from Friday night.

Addressing a well attended gathering, at the premises of Bannerghatta Biological Park, Sibal said that it's time to think of 'Team India', leaving apart the caste and language barriers.

Terming the newly open Butterfly park as a symbol of 'unity in diversity' he said the conservation-oriented park was the symbol of Team India spirit and would showcase India's efforts towards protecting the smaller species of biodiversity.

Sibal stressed the need for preservation of smaller species of flora and fauna as they act as the building blocks of biodiversity.

"One always thought of powerful end of biological chain and forgot the smaller ones. But, it was



Visitors taking a look at butterfly specimens at the inauguration of the Butterfly Park at Bannerghatta Biological park in Bangalore on Saturday.

—Express photo B N Mohan Kumar B.N

essential to protect them for the very survival of human race", he said.

"This is an occasion for celebra-

tion for taking a lead to create a unique butterfly park for our children," he added

The Minister also said the park, set up at a cost of Rs five crore, would not only be an eco-tourism spot, but also help in preserving rare species of butterflies.

"The state governments and institution in the states, should strengthen the hands of Centre to preserve the nature", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, C. Chennigappa requested the Centre to release additional grants for better conservation programmes in the State.

The butterfly park, comprising a conservatory, museum, research lab and education centre, was taken up as a joint initiative of the Union Department of Biotechnology, the Karnataka Government, University of Agricultural Sciences and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), an NGO.

Dr S. Natesh, Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Secretary of Department of Biotechnology Dr M.K. Ban, Principal Secretary of Forest, former Principal Secretary A.C. Lakshman, Principal Secretary for Ecology and Environment Department Abhijith Das Gupta, PCCF R.M. Ray and PCCF (wildlife) A.K. Varma were also present among the dignitaries.

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