

## Solar energy movement launched

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Harnessing technology: K.A. Jayapal, Fisheries Minister, commissioning the solar mobile generator in Nagapattinam on Wednesday.

Fisheries Minister K. A. Jayapal launched the Solar Energy Peoples Movement to promote solar power-based activities in the district at a function here on Wednesday.

The Minister said that the Chief Minister has a vision of developing Tamil Nadu as a world leader in solar energy and introduced Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2012 with that goal. The government intends to make solar energy a people's movement.

Despite various programmes to augment the production of power in the State, the paucity of power is felt due to spurt in industries. The government is bent on promoting solar energy in every possible way and solar lamps are being installed at green houses constructed under the Chief Minister's housing scheme.

Mr. Jayapal said that educational institutions, business establishments, industries, marriage hall, private hospitals etc could take advantage of the policy and install solar lamps, water heaters. The Centre provided 30 per cent subsidy for the installation of solar equipment. Easy loans are being provided at two per cent interest for houses and at five per cent interest rate for business establishment for the installation of the same.

He sought the cooperation of all sections of society for making solar policy a mass movement on the lines of the rain water harvesting programme implemented in the previous AIADMK regime.

He commissioned solar equipment at Uma Food Court, Hotel Sea Gate, Velankanni, G. S. Resorts, Hotel Subam Park through video conferencing. T. Munusamy, Collector, presided over the programme. Manjula Chandrasekaran, municipal chairperson, P. N. Kuppusamy of Uma solar concern and others were present.

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