Funds allotted for Gandhi hill facelift

Written by Administrator
Wednesday, 24 April 2013 10:24 -

The Gandhi hill in the city is going to get a facelift soon as Union minister of state for tourism K. Chiranjeevi sanctioned Rs 5.22 crore for the development of the historical Gandhi hill.

As part of it, MP Lagadapati Rajagopal and Vijayawada west MLA Vellampalli Srinivas visited Gandhi hill on Saturday evening to identify the development proposals. The MP and MLA inspected the library, toy train and museum which were in a dilapidated stage.

The Deccan Chronicle has highlighted the neglected condition of Gandhi hill in its columns on April 12. The MP and MLA discussed about developing the library at a cost of Rs 30 lakh with chemical treatment to books, modernising the toy train and track, introducing sound and light system, developing the planetarium, developing greenery with the cooperation of AP Tourism Development Corporation.

Speaking to this newspaper, MLA Srinivas said that they would bring the past glory to the Gandhi hill with the cooperation of Union minister Chiranjeevi. He said that Chinrajeevi informed him about sanctioning funds through a letter on April 16.

Over 4,000 collections of books on Mahatma Gandhi are present in the library. The Gandhi hill in the heart of Vijayawada city gains prominence with Gandhi stupa built atop the hill in memory of the visit of Gandhiji to Vijayawada city to participate in the AICC session and to collect funds for Swaraj on March 31, 1921. In memory of Gandhiji’s visit, a stupa was constructed on the hill and Dr Zakir Hussain unveiled it in 1968. The Gandhi stupa is in a dilapidated condition.

The existing planetarium was inaugurated by former vice-president of India G.S. Pathak on June 19, 1971. The projector is outdated and it should be replaced with modern equipment. A team of officials from Birla Planetarium, Hyderabad, also inspected the planetarium here and recommended its modernisation. Sub-collector D. Harichandana and others accompanied the MP and MLA during their visit to Gandhi hill.