

Sadhguru

Yogi, mystic, and visionary, Sadhguru is a spiritual master with a difference. An arresting blend of profundity and pragmatism, his life and work serve as a reminder that yoga is not an esoteric discipline from an outdated past, but a contemporary science, vitally relevant to our times. Probing, passionate and provocative, insightful, logical and unfailingly witty, Sadhguru's talks have earned him the reputation of a speaker and opinion-maker of international renown.

With speaking engagements that take him around the world, he is widely sought after by prestigious global forums to address issues as diverse as human rights, business values, and social, environmental and existential issues. He has been a delegate to the United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit, a member of the World Council of Religious and Spiritual Leaders and Alliance for New Humanity, a special invitee to the Australian Leadership Retreat, Tallberg Forum, Indian Economic Summit 2005-2008, as well as a regular speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos, TED, YPO, WPO, TieCON, India Today Conclave and many more. With a celebratory engagement with life on all levels, Sadhguru's areas of active involvement encompass fields as diverse as architecture and visual design, poetry and painting, ecology and horticulture, sports and music. He is the author and designer of several unique buildings and consecrated spaces at the Isha Yoga Center, which have wide attention for their combination of intense sacred power with strikingly innovative eco-friendly aesthetics.

Listeners have been ubiquitously impressed by his astute and incisive grasp of current issues and world affairs, as well as his unerringly scientific approach to the question of human wellbeing. Sadhguru is also the founder of Isha Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the wellbeing of the individual and the world for the past three decades. Isha Foundation does not promote any particular ideology, religion, or race, but transmits inner sciences of universal appeal.

URL: Isha.Sadhguru.org

Isha Foundation

Isha, with over 200 centers worldwide is a non-religious, not-for-profit, public service movement with over 2 million volunteers worldwide which address all aspects of human wellbeing. From its powerful yoga programs for inner transformation to its inspiring projects for society and environment, Isha activities are designed to create an inclusive culture that is the basis for global harmony and progress. This approach has gained worldwide recognition and reflects in Isha Foundation's special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

Isha Foundation is an entirely volunteer-run movement which has been dedicated to cultivating human potential through its vibrant spiritual movement for the past three decades. The Foundation is a human service organization that recognizes the possibility of each person to empower another - restoring global community through inspiration and individual transformation.

The Foundation is headquartered at Isha Yoga Center, set in the lush rainforest at the base of the Velliangiri Mountains in southern India, and at the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences on the spectacular Cumberland Plateau in middle Tennessee, USA.

At the core of Isha's activities is a customized system of yoga called Isha Yoga. Isha Yoga distills powerful, ancient yogic methods for a modern person, creating peak physical, mental, and emotional

wellbeing. This basis of total wellbeing accelerates inner growth, allowing each individual to tap the wealth of vibrant life within oneself. Sadhguru's introductory program, Inner Engineering, introduces Shambhavi Mahamudra - a simple but powerful kriya (inner energy process) for deep inner transformation.

It pioneers several renowned rural upliftment initiatives for education, environmental stewardship, and holistic and healthy living. Isha Foundation's social initiatives include Action for Rural Regeneration (ARR), Isha Vidhya and Project GreenHands (PGH).

Action for Rural Regeneration (ARR) is an outreach programme designed to improve the health and quality of life of underprivileged rural communities. ARR enhances existing development schemes by supporting indigenous models of health, disease prevention and participatory community governance whilst offering primary health care services and allopathic treatment through a dedicated team of qualified and trained personnel. The project takes a holistic view of health, encompassing mind, body and spirit. Launched in 2003, ARR has so far embraced 4,600 villages and affected the lives of over 7 million people.

Sadhguru has said of this project, "It is not just aimed at improving the economic conditions of people: it is a way of inspiring a human being to stand up for himself, to raise the human spirit".

Isha Vidhya is a project which works to raise the level of education and literacy in rural India. It has a particular emphasis on English-medium and computer-based education. It seeks to ensure quality education for children in order to create equal opportunities for all to participate and benefit from India's economic growth. The target is to establish at least one school in each of the 32 districts in Tamil Nadu, and to partner with government schools to raise overall educational standards. To date, Isha Vidhya has set up 8 schools, with 4050 students, 58% of whom receive scholarships, and it has "adopted" 31 schools operated by the government in the past 12 months to reach a further 28,000 students. The positive effect of a systematic education rooted in India's cultural strengths cannot be underestimated when one considers that many schools in the country's rural areas are merely a shed with a roof – no benches, no textbooks, no blackboards, and no teachers!

Isha Foundation's third major charitable initiative is "**Project GreenHands**" which seeks to prevent and reverse environmental degradation and promote sustainable living. Its objective is to create 10% additional green cover in the state of Tamil Nadu, and it has facilitated the planting of 18 million trees thus far. On just one day in October 2006, 256,289 volunteers planted 852,587 saplings in 6,284 locations across 27 districts in the state, (unsurprisingly) setting a Guinness World Record in the process. The Indian Government recognized Project GreenHands' contributions in 2008, with the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar – India's highest environmental award.

Project GreenHands programs are designed to enhance biodiversity, protect the soil, restore ecological balance and provide livelihood opportunities for thousands. It has seeded intense environmental awareness in the state, and – in global terms – it is an inspiring project which asserts the power of individual action to achieve large-scale change.

Affiliations:

- United Nations - Department of Public Information (DPI).
- Special Consultative Status - United Nations Economic and Social Council
- Guinness World Record for the highest number of saplings planted in 3 days

www.ishafoundation.org