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● **City of Columbus honours Sadhguru Jaggi**



The City of Columbus in the US state of Ohio held an official Felicitation Ceremony recently at the City Hall, in honour of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, realized yogi, humanitarian and founder of Isha Foundation, for Action for Rural Rejuvenation, a project that has impacted the rural communities in Tamil Nadu.

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Sadhguru was welcomed to the City of Columbus by Councilwoman Charleta B. Tavares, Director of Community Relations James Stowe, Columbus City Attorney Richard Pfeiffer, and many Isha volunteers and well wishers from across the state of Ohio and surrounding areas.

Councilwoman Tavares, Chair of the Health, Housing and Human Services committee and a nationally recognized champion of health and social services issues, has previously complimented the pioneering work of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. She stated, "Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has taken a holistic approach to providing for the needs of rural residents in India. This approach has and should be implemented and expanded upon in our central city neighborhoods. This is an opportunity to share and learn from each other."

During the formal reception, Charleta Tavares, James Stowe and Richard Pfeiffer addressed the gathering, expressing how happy the City of Columbus is to honour a dignitary like Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, and said that Sadhguru's visit was a great opportunity for learning.

Sadhguru, who has visited Columbus often, responded by saying that he was excited to be back in the City of Columbus once again, and accepted the invitation to enter the City Chambers.

After an opening statement by Stowe welcoming Sadhguru, Tavares read a proclamation "recognizing and commending spiritual master, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, for his humanitarian initiatives and worldwide efforts to promote peace, well-being and self realization" and "welcoming him back to the City of Columbus."

"Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev", the proclamation continued, "is one of the most profound mystics of modern times" whose "humanitarian initiatives and yoga programmes have brought deep experiences and have greatly enhanced the quality of lives of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide."

The proclamation further characterized Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev as a "revolutionary leader, commanding a unique world wide revolution in which individuals are transformed from within to bring about positive external changes, affecting everyone around him by his blissfulness, uninhibited compassion, boundless love and ceaseless endeavour to help all beings."

The proclamation also offered a particular commendation for Action for Rural Rejuvenation, describing it as "an outreach programme of Isha Foundation" that "provides healthcare and other services to people in remote and rural villages in India, offering effective and sustainable empowerment to these villagers. This programme has been recognized and lauded by the President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam, who praised the volunteer efforts to strengthen and revive India's rural culture."

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In a concise speech, Sadhguru thanked the City of Columbus, expressed his happiness that a project in India is acknowledged in the US. Responding to questions about how the health situation in Columbus can be impacted by what Sadhguru is doing in India, Sadhguru talked about the ability of politicians to easily influence many lives, noting that top business and political leaders should be invited to attend these programs so they come to a certain realization within, which would immediately percolate to their local community.

Director of Community Relations thanked everyone present for attending, and brought the event to a close.

Action for Rural Rejuvenation is the vision of Sadhguru and a project administered by Isha Foundation to rejuvenate the lives of the rural people who live in humble, impoverished villages, displaced from social relevance and the ability to seek employment. Through a multi-phased plan providing selective physical, social, mental and spiritual resources, Action for Rural Rejuvenation creates sustainable opportunities for a higher quality of rural life.

Central to the project are Mobile Health Clinics, offering free and accessible treatment of immediate and chronic health needs by a staff consisting of a physician, nurse, pharmacist, medical aide and yoga teacher. These efforts complement wellness educational programs in home health care, preventive medicine, community health, hygiene, healthful living and yoga. The initiative includes recreational programs that offer alternatives to alcohol abuse prevalent among India's poor and provides a forum for social interaction, sportsmanship and sharing among villagers. Intra-village games and competitions have a tremendous impact in uplifting the spirit and pride of the village people.

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev's humanitarian initiatives with the United Nations for world peace and his outreach programmes for life-term prisoners and destitute children have received international attention. He was among the world's preeminent spiritual leaders attending the Millennium World Peace Conference at the United Nations and continues his work for peace as a spiritual statesman around the world. Sadhguru is an international speaker, author and authority on the essential nature of yoga and its relationship to health and human consciousness. He travels to the US to offer his unique Isha Yoga Programs, like the one to be held in Columbus July 28 through August 3 at Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad Street and throughout India, Lebanon and Europe.

For more information on Isha Foundation programs and books by cvisit <http://www.ishafoundation.org>



Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a realised master, yogi and mystic, who has founded Isha Foundation, an international public service organisation. The Sadhguru created Isha Yoga as the vehicle to transmit a deep experience of the self. Isha Foundation administers the Dhyanalinga multi-religious temple, ashram and meditation shrine in Coimbatore.

For worldwide programme information, please contact: 098109-98004 / (0422) 2319654 / 55 / (022) 24304693, 24932335; or visit www.ishafoundation.org
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