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Email: mediarelations@ishafoundation.org

Cauvery Calling: Sadhguru plants “seeds of wellbeing” in the heart of Cauvery delta in Thanjavur

14 September 2019, Thanjavur: Renaming the Isha Nursery in Thanjavur as Mahatma Gandhi Green India Mission in commemoration of the Mahatma’s 150th birth anniversary, Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation said that 350 more such nurseries would be established to raise saplings for the Cauvery Calling Movement. All of them will be named after the Father of the Nation. The nurseries will generate livelihood opportunities for thousands of rural communities in the region.

In a moment that filled many hearts, Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation, sowed seeds that will germinate saplings for the Cauvery Calling movement, at the Isha Nursery in Thanjavur in the heart of the Cauvery belt. Millions of people around India and the world have pledged their support for the Cauvery Calling movement which has erased boundaries of region, religion and race and is expected to become a blueprint for river revitalization in tropical regions.

The nursery at Thanjavur is one of the largest nurseries of Isha’s Project GreenHands, an environmental initiative launched by Sadhguru in 2004 that has enabled millions of citizens to plant 35 million trees across Tamil Nadu in a bid to increase green cover in the state. “This is a 10-acre nursery where we are producing little over 1.5 million saplings,” said Sadhguru of the nursery’s annual output adding that it was one of 35 such nurseries in the Cauvery basin. “It's not just the number, it's the quality of saplings that we raise,” said Sadhguru. The nursery does not use chemical-based fertilizers

Sadhguru said the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) had invited 40 nursery growers in the state and found that “Isha Nursery plants were the only ones without the nematode accumulations on the root system.” Nematode deposits lead to several complications that dramatically reduce survival rate of saplings. “India needs thousands of these nurseries. They must be raised organically,” said Sadhguru. He lauded the contribution and effort of 42 women volunteers who he said were not just doing a phenomenal job but were on a mission to revitalize Tamil soil and agriculture.

For the past seven years, the Thanjavur nursery has been producing over 1.5 million saplings a year which are distributed across various districts in Tamil Nadu. More than 80 different species of trees are grown at the nursery and are used in Isha’s agroforestry program. They will now be also used for Cauvery Calling.

The Cauvery Calling rally, led by Sadhguru, which began its journey on 3 September from Talacauvery, the river’s birthplace in Karnataka, has been touring districts in the Cauvery belt across the two states to consolidate on-ground multi-stakeholder support for concerted action to revive the river. The rally is heading into its final lap in Tamil Nadu. A mega public event is scheduled in Chennai tomorrow where the Governor and CM of Tamil Nadu will be in attendance. The rally will culminate in Coimbatore on 17 September.

Cauvery Calling is a first of its kind campaign, setting the standard for how India’s rivers – the country’s lifelines – can be revitalized. It will initiate the revitalization of river Cauvery by supporting farmers to plant 242 crore trees in the river basin. This will increase water retention in the basin, while enhancing farmers’ income by 300 to 800% in 5-7 years and transforming the lives of 84 million people.

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