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**"We Want To Give Bangalore People A Love Affair With Nandi Hills":
Sadhguru At Launch Of Namma Nandi Project**

18 September 2021, Chickballapur: "We want to give Bangalore people a love affair with Nandi Hills," Sadhguru, Founder-Isha Foundation, said at the launch of "Namma Nandi" project at Nandi Betta in Chickaballapur on Saturday.

As part of Namma Nandi, Isha Outreach, the social arm of Isha Foundation, will facilitate planting of lakhs of saplings, bushes, seedlings, grasses, and fruit varieties that are popular with native fauna in Nandi Hills and other adjoining hills. The project's goal is to nurture the birds and animals and turn the area into a wonderful ecological site.

The event was graced by District Commissioner Ms R Latha IAS, Mr Arsalan IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Mr Mithun Kumar IPS, Superintendent of Police, Chickballapur who extended full support the event.

“We’ll start an educational programme on how to own this hill. What we own, we should protect. Nurturing has become necessary because there has been exploitation,” Sadhguru said to around 200 volunteers gathered at the site for the Namma Nandi plantation drive.

Sharing the plan of action, the spiritual leader said, “We want to activate a membership programme for the Namma Nandi movement. At least 10,000 youth should enrol. As youth, you should not smoke, drink, throw things around and go. We must change this perception about youth and say that Bangalore city youth are not like that.”

“A hill station doesn't mean it's a picnic spot. It means we have to protect that place. Change your idea of going to the hills. This “Namma Nandi” should become the pride of Bangalore,” he said.

The ecological initiative is being undertaken with the support and guidance of the District Forest Department and administration of Chickballapur district.

“I am very blessed to be here. This is a very good cause. This is not for the next generation, but for this generation. We should do this in all hills. I extend my full support from the District administration side,” District Commissioner Ms R Latha IAS said.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Arsalan IFS, Deputy Conservator, said, “The government needs your support. Hills will regenerate themselves if left alone, but because of human activities and interference, they aren't able to regenerate by themselves. We welcome you to replenish all the hills in Chickballapur: one of the greenest districts around Bangalore city. Be a part of Namma Nandi!”

Extending his full support, Mr Mithun Kumar IPS, Superintendent of Police, Chickballapur, said, “From policing perspective, it's a positive development. If you bring 10,000 youth here for this movement, that's very good for us.

Crime rate will come down. This will inspire Chickballapur. We'll extend full support and 1,200 police staff will be a part of this initiative."

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