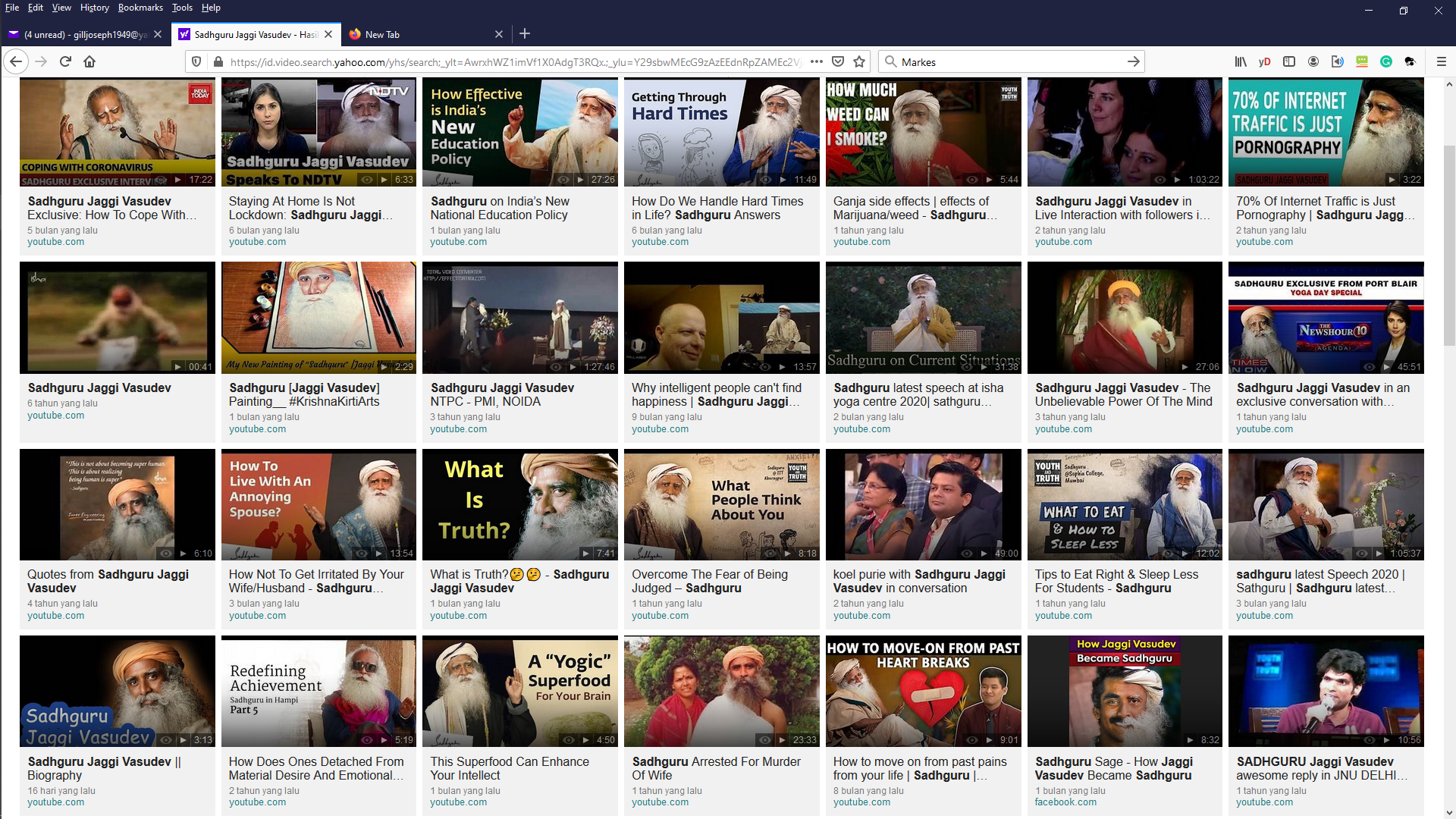
**Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev 1957-**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev>



"Sadhguru" redirects here. For the definition of the word, see [Satguru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satguru).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sadhguru  **Jaggi Vasudev** | |
| [Sadhguru - February 2019 - 2 (cropped).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sadhguru_-_February_2019_-_2_(cropped).jpg)  Sadhguru in 2019 | |
| **Born** | 3 September 1957 (age 63)  [Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysore), [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka), India |
| **Nationality** | [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_people) |
| **Organization** | [Isha Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isha_Foundation) |
| **Notable work** | * Inner Engineering * Dhyanalinga * Rally for Rivers * Linga Bhairavi * Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga * Mystic's Musings * Kaveri Calling |
| **Spouse(s)** | Vijaya Kumari (Vijji)  ​  ​  (m. 1984; death 1997)​  [[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-family-1) |
| **Children** | 1 |
| **Honors** | [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan) Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar |
| **Website** | [isha.sadhguru.org](http://isha.sadhguru.org) |

**Jaggi Vasudev** (born 3 September 1957),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-name-2) known publicly as **Sadhguru**,[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-name-2)[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-6) is an Indian [yogi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yogi) and author.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-7)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-most-powerful-indians-8)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-9)

Vasudev earned a bachelor's degree in English from the [University of Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Mysore) and has been teaching [yoga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoga) in southern India since 1982. In 1992, he established [Isha Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isha_Foundation) near [Coimbatore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coimbatore), which runs an [ashram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashram), hosts a yoga centre, and has been involved in various activities in spirituality, education, and the environment.

Vasudev is the author of several books, including [*Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Engineering:_A_Yogi%27s_Guide_to_Joy) (2016). As a public speaker he has spoken at the [United Nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nation)'s Millennium World Peace Summit, the British parliament's [House of Lords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords), the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology), and the [International Institute for Management Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Institute_for_Management_Development). He has also spoken at the annual [World Economic Forum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) in 2007, 2017 and 2020.

In 2017, he was awarded the [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan), India's second highest civilian award, by the [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India) for his services in social services.



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## Biography

### Early life and education

Jaggi Vasudev was born on 3 September 1957 in [Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysore), [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka), [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) to a [Telugu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telugu_language) speaking family.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam201330,_31-10) He was the youngest of four children – two boys and two girls. His mother was a housewife and his father an [ophthalmologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ophthalmologist) with [Indian Railways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Railways).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:0-11) Due to the nature of his father's job, the family moved frequently.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam201332-12)

After his schooling at [Demonstration School, Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonstration_School,_Mysore) and Mahajana Pre-University College, Vasudev graduated from the [University of Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Mysore) with a bachelor's degree in English, despite a spotty attendance record and an irreverent attitude to tuition.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam201371-13) Defying his parents wishes, he refused to pursue a post-graduate course and took to business instead.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14)

### Spirituality

Aged thirteen, Yasudev took yoga lessons from [Malladihalli Raghavendra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malladihalli_Raghavendra), and kept practicing [asanas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asana) and [pranayama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pranayama)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam201373-15) daily throughout his youth, albeit without spiritual aspirations.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam201338–39-16) At the age of 25, on 23 September 1982, he went up [Chamundi Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamundi_Hill) and sat on a rock, where he had a 'spiritual experience'.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14) Six weeks afterwards, he left his business to his friend and travelled extensively in an effort to gain insight into his mystical experience.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14) After about a year of meditation and travel, he decided to teach yoga to share his inner experience.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14)

In 1983, he taught his first yoga class with seven participants in Mysore. Over time, he began conducting yoga classes across [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka) and [Hyderabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyderabad,_India) travelling on his motorcycle, subsisting on the produce of his poultry farm rental and donating the collections received from his students to a local charity on the last day of the class.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14)

### Family

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sadhguru_Jaggi_Vasudev_with_wife_Vijayakumari_(01).jpg)

Jaggi Vasudev, with wife Vijaya Kumari (left)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jaggi_Vasudev_-_World_Economic_Forum_Annual_Meeting_Davos_2007.jpg)

Jaggi Vasudev at [Davos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Davos), [Switzerland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland) in 2007

Jaggi Vasudev was married to Vijaya Kumari, known by her nickname Vijji. This was Kumari's second marriage. Prior to marrying Vasudev she worked in a bank, a position she retained until early 1996.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam2013146-17) The couple had a daughter named Radhe. Kumari died on 23 December 1997. At that time her father alleged that Vasudev had murdered her; Vasudev asserted that she had attained [mahasamadhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahasamadhi) and claimed she had told him about it nine months before her death.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:2-18)[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-19) The police investigation found no fault in him.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:2-18)

Vasudev's daughter Radhe Jaggi, born 1990,[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTESubramaniam2013105-20) is a trained [bharatanatyam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharatanatyam) dancer.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-21) She married Chennai-based classical vocalist Sandeep Narayan in 2014.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-22)

### Books and public engagement

Jaggi Vasudev is the author of several books. His [*Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_Engineering:_A_Yogi%27s_Guide_to_Joy)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-bstand-23) made [*The New York Times* Best Seller list](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times_Best_Seller_list) in several categories.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-24) [[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-25)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-26) Vasudev is also the author of *Mystic's Musings*[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-27) and *Death: An Inside Story*.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-28)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-29)

Vasudev is a frequent public speaker who has been invited to address many prestigious forums and conferences across the globe, such as the [United Nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nation)'s Millennium World Peace Summit, the [House of Lords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords), the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology), and the [International Institute for Management Development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Institute_for_Management_Development).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-30) He has also spoken at the annual [World Economic Forum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Economic_Forum) in 2007,[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-31) 2017 and 2020.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-32)[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-33)

### Honours

[Pranab Mukherjee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pranab_Mukherjee) presenting the [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan) to Vasudev at the [Rashtrapati Bhavan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rashtrapati_Bhavan) in New Delhi on April 13, 2017

Vasudev received the [Padma Vibhushan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Vibhushan), the second-highest [civilian award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_award) from the [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India) in 2017 in recognition of his contribution to the field of spirituality.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-padma-34)[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-35) He stood 92nd in [The Indian Express](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Indian_Express)' list of 100 most powerful Indians, in 2012 and stood 40th in [India Today](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_Today)’s list of 50 most powerful Indians, in 2019.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-36)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-37)

## Isha Foundation

Further information: [Isha Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isha_Foundation)

Located on the foothills of the [Velliangiri Mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velliangiri_Mountains), forty kilometres from the city of [Coimbatore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coimbatore) in the state of [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu), South India,[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-berghella-69-38) [Isha Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isha_Foundation) was established as a non-profit organisation by Jaggi Vasudev in 1992.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-most-powerful-indians-8) Its social initiatives have been awarded with the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-39)

### Yoga programmes

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bse_class.jpg)

Jaggi Vasudev conducting the Inner Engineering Program at the [Bombay Stock Exchange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombay_Stock_Exchange)

After the establishment of the ashram, Vasudev began conducting yoga programmes on the premises of the newly established Isha Yoga Centre in 1994, including a course for the [Indian Hockey team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_men%27s_national_field_hockey_team) in 1996.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-40)[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-41) In 1997, he began conducting classes in the United States[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-42)[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-43) and from 1998 onwards, for [life-term prisoners](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_imprisonment) in Tamil Nadu prisons.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-44)[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-SingletonGoldberg2013-45)

The flagship program is titled 'Inner Engineering', which introduces people to simple Yoga practices and the *Shambhavi Mahamudra*;[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-46) corporate leadership forms a core audience of these programs.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-47) It views depression as the result of a false widespread belief about an ability to change the world according to one's desires, and offers to teach the technology of mental well-being, to help one acclimatise with unavoidable work rigors.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-48) Vasudev has frequently cited a study by the University of California which supposedly found [mahamudra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahamudra) to lead to highly elevated levels (221%) of neuronal regeneration in the brain; it has since been noted that the study appeared in a fringe journal published by a discredited alternative medicine advocate and his allies, and that it merely reports lower levels of subjective stress from a medium-sized uncontrolled group practising yoga daily for six weeks.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-50)

### The Dhyanalinga

The Dhyanalinga (composed of the terms [*dhyāna*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhyana_in_Hinduism) and [*linga*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingam)) is a consecrated sculptural stone structure standing 4.3 metres (13 feet 9 inches) tall.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-berghella-74-51) Its creation and [consecration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecration), according to Vasudev, was his life's mission entrusted to him by his [guru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru), Palani Swami.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-mid-14) In 1998, the structure of the Dhyanalinga was ordered and arrived at the [ashram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashram), where the Dhyanalinga Yogic Temple was being built to hold it.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-berghella-70-52) After three years of work, the temple was completed on 23 June 1999[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-53) and opened to the public on 23 November.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-54)

The Dhyanalinga Yogic Temple is a meditative space which is not dedicated to any particular faith or belief system,[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-55) and is open to all visitors irrespective of their religion or nationality.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-berghella-72-56) A stone pillar named the Sarva Dharma [stambha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stambha), located at the temple's front entrance, features symbols of several religions to indicate the venue's universality.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-57)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-58)

### Adiyogi Shiva statue

Further information: [Adiyogi Shiva statue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adiyogi_Shiva_statue)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:IMG_j257.jpg)

[Adiyogi Shiva statue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adiyogi_Shiva_statue)

Designed by Vasudev, the foundation built a 34-metre-tall (112 ft) and 500-tonne (490-long-ton; 550-short-ton) [Shiva statue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adiyogi_Shiva_statue) for inspiring and promoting [yoga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoga). It was inaugurated by the [Prime Minister of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_India), [Narendra Modi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narendra_Modi)[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-59) and has been since recognised as the "Largest Bust Sculpture" by Guinness World Records.[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-60) It is a part of the [Incredible India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incredible_India) campaign.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-61)

The Tamil Nadu government has since claimed the entire construction as illegal, for which no approval was granted;[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-TNM_Illegal-62) [Comptroller and Auditor General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comptroller_and_Auditor_General_of_India)'s report further states the construction to have flagrantly violated the rules of biodiversity zones.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-63)[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-64)[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-65)

### Events

Vasudev regularly conducts gatherings (*[mahasathsangs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satsang" \o "Satsang)*) in the Indian states of [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu) and [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka).[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-66) He also takes spiritual aspirants on annual pilgrimages (*[yatras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yatra" \o "Yatra)*) to [Mount Kailash](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kailash) and the [Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas).[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-67)[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-68)

Every year at the Isha Yoga Centre, Vasudev celebrates an all-night [Mahashivarathri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahashivarathri), the annual Hindu festival in honour of [Shiva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva). It is estimated that these celebrations were attended by as many as 800,000 people in 2013.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-69)[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-70)[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-outlook-71) He has also established a Linga Bhairavi temple in Coimbatore where women conduct the rituals.[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-72)

### Educational and social initiatives

Isha Vidhya, an education initiative, aims to raise the level of education and literacy in rural India by providing quality English-language-based, computer-aided education. There are seven Isha Vidhya Schools in operation which educate around 3,000 students.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-73)

The foundation also runs an Action for Rural Rejuvenation program, in over 4200 villages, raising the welfare of the underprivileged.

### Environmental initiatives

Isha Foundation has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council,[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-74) and is an accredited observer of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-75) Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, praised the efforts by foundation for carrying forward [Swachh Bharat Mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swachh_Bharat_Mission) in Tamil Nadu.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-76)

#### Project GreenHands

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PGH_nurseries.jpg)

Saplings being readied for transportation at a PGH nursery.

Project GreenHands (PGH) was established in 2004 as an environmental organisation. Its activity is largely focused on [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu). The organisation received the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar, the [Government of India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_India)'s environmental award in 2010.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-guin-77) The organisation's activities include [agroforestry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agroforestry), plant nurseries in schools,[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-78) and tree-planting in urban centres such as [Tiruchirappalli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiruchirappalli)[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-79) and [Tiruppur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiruppur).[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-80)

#### Rally for Rivers

The Rally for Rivers campaign, which ran from September to October 2017,[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-thirumurthy-tree-planting-81) intended to rejuvenate India's depleting rivers by growing large forests along their banks. Promoted by Vasudev all over the country, the campaign received support from a broad range of celebrities and the urban populace.[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:4-82) [MOUs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorandum_of_understanding) were signed with state governments.

However, the campaign has been widely criticised by environmentalists for lacking in scientific basis and shifting the spotlight away from real concerns.[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-RfRCrit-83) Acclaimed water conservationist [Rajendra Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajendra_Singh) alleges that the campaign is motivated by the goal of money and fame.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-84)

#### Cauvery Calling

Further information: [Cauvery calling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cauvery_calling)

The Cauvery Calling project aims to support farmers in planting an estimated 2.4 billion trees through [agroforestry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agroforestry), thereby covering one third of [Cauvery basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaveri) with trees, as a means of conserving it. The project has received acclaim from politicians and members of the movie industry.

However, environmentalists and public intellectuals allege that the program presents a simplistic view of river conservation, sidesteps social issues, and has the potential to harm tributaries and wildlife habitats.[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:02-85)[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-86)[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-87) A [Public Interest litigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_interest_litigation_in_India) has also been filed in the Karnataka High Court questioning the legality of the fundraising practices for the initiative, and the usage of government owned land for a private purpose without supporting study.[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-88)[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-89)[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-90)[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-91) In January 2020, the High Court ruled that the Foundation needed to disclose details of its fundraising practices relating to the initiative.[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-92)

## Criticism

Critics claim that Vasudev shares the ideology of [Bharatiya Janata Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharatiya_Janata_Party)'s Hindu nationalism ([Hindutva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindutva" \o "Hindutva)),[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:6-93)[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-94)[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-95)[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-96) and that he takes an "intolerant nationalist" stance in his media appearances.[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:6-93) He advocates a total ban on [cow slaughter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cattle_slaughter_in_India) and characterises the era of [Muslim Rule in India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_rulers_in_the_Indian_subcontinent) as an "oppressive occupation" that was far worse than the [British Raj](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49) Vasudev has also spoken in favour of the [2019 Balakot airstrike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Balakot_airstrike), the [introduction of a comprehensive GST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Hundred_and_First_Amendment_of_the_Constitution_of_India), and the [Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizenship_(Amendment)_Act,_2019), while denouncing the [Thoothukudi protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thoothukudi_massacre) as a peril to industry.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-97)[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:5-98)[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-99) Vasudev accuses leftist liberals of aiding and abetting [militancy in Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insurgency_in_Jammu_and_Kashmir), and has suggested that [Kanhaiya Kumar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanhaiya_Kumar) and [Umar Khalid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umar_Khalid), known for their involvement in the [JNU sedition row](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JNU_sedition_row), should be put behind bars.[[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-100) His understanding of politics and history has been repeatedly questioned.[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:6-93)[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:5-98)[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)

Vasudev has also been accused of promoting superstition and misrepresenting science.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-101)[[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:3-102)[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49) He propagates the claim, unsupported by science, that cooked food consumed during [lunar eclipses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_eclipse) depletes the human body's [pranic energies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prana).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-103)[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-104)[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-105) He also perpetuates numerous myths regarding [clinical depression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_depressive_disorder), and opposes the potential prohibition on the use of [mercury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury_(element)) in traditional Indian medicine, despite the substance's extreme toxicity.[[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-106)[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-107) His views on the [Higgs boson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higgs_boson) and alleged benefits of [vibhuti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vibhuti) have been rejected as unproven by science.[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-108)[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-109) Moreover, he propounds theories of [water memory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_memory) that are not supported by science.[[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-110) In addition, Vasudev has been accused of popularising Hindutva's revisionist history of a golden Hindu past; of fundamentally misinterpreting [Darwin's work](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwinism) as a Western appropriation of ancient Indian wisdom; of advocating for Hindu death rituals; and of claiming that [Hindu Tantrics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tantra) are capable of raising the dead.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-:1-49)

## Notes

* 1. "Sadhguru", alternatively spelled "[sadguru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadguru" \o "Sadguru)",[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev" \l "cite_note-Sanghvi2018-3) means "real or true [guru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru)".[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-4) The term has also been translated as "senior [sadhu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadhu); eminent [preceptor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preceptor)."[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaggi_Vasudev#cite_note-5)

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