

Cosmic solutions cannot work for earthly issues



■ ■ SADHGURU
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After the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, wherever I went, I was repeatedly asked questions like, "Are the gods angry with us? Is there some *yagna* we can do to avoid this?" First and foremost one needs to understand that a cyclone or a flood is not a calamity but just a natural process that can happen anywhere, at any time.

The calamity lies in the fact that so many people have died and many more displaced, their lives shattered perhaps to a point where they'll never be able to put the pieces back together again. All this could have been avoided to a large extent, if only we had managed things better.

The present devastation by floods in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is not sudden nor is it unforeseen. In 1998-99, when people in this region complained of lack of rains, I mentioned that at the rate at which we were progressing, in another five to six years there would be too much rain. It did not take any great intuition to say this.

A slight disturbance in climate over the oceans can result in the creation of a low-pressure area over a dry, peninsular tract of land. With oceans on both sides and without suffi-

cient green cover, this would naturally attract an enormous amount of rain. If there was enough vegetation, it would have held back the rain which would then have escaped gradually to become streams and rivers. Unfortunately, we stripped the land of its green cover. So the rain — that was a blessing — has become a curse.

This is just a natural progression; it is neither God's wrath nor is it some unforeseen force acting upon us. We are the cause of the effect that we face right now. The tragedy due to these rains is because the land is overpopulated.

Whenever there are small changes in nature like earthquakes and floods humans are badly hit, because they are everywhere. So the question arises: what do we need to do? Through advancements in medical science, we are learning to

take control of death. But it is even more important that we take control of birth.

We can create human societies through conscious action in synchronicity with nature or other situations will compel us to act in a certain way. It would be worthwhile if we act consciously to ensure such devastation is not repeated. We must aim for reduction of the population by at least one-third in the next 50 years and ensure a minimum of 33 per cent land is under green cover. If this happens, we can largely control such calamities.

For every calamity that we bring upon ourselves, there is no need to look for cosmic explanations. This is a local disaster. When I say local I'm referring to what we've done to our planet. This has nothing to do with cosmic phenomena and is very much linked to our planet and to our country right now. This is something we have to handle; there is no need to look for cosmic solutions or divine interventions. The political leadership, the citizenry, the religious leaders — everyone must come together and ensure that our goals with respect to population and environment are achieved. This is the *yagna* that needs to be done.

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