Spiritual bouncer

Sport is a great uniter. So is Sachin Tendulkar. Hence, it was only fitting that the legend was part of an effort to bring sports into the lives of villagers in Tamil Nadu.

Every year, Isha Foundation—a Coimbatore-based nonprofit organisation founded by Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev—organises the Isha Gramotsavam, an inter-village sports tournament to improve the overall health of villagers throughout the state.

On September 4, Sachin, as chief guest of this year’s edition, shared the dais with the Sadhguru and encouraged all Indians to take up a sport. “I did not succeed all the time,” he said. “But, sports taught me to get up on my feet again and to compete in the right spirit. Sports teaches you teamwork, and teamwork can never fail. Sports means everything to me. Sports for all is something that I encourage for everyone in India.”

Echoing his sentiments, the Sadhguru said it was crucial for people to take up sports. “If they don’t play, we will have a nation that will become stagnant and sick over a period of time,” he said. “The youth who are chanting ‘Sachin, Sachin’, I want all of you to take up some sport. If you are still alive, that means you are young enough to play.”

And, as actions speak louder than words, the Sadhguru ended his speech by bowling to Sachin. The little master, not to be outdone, executed a perfect pull shot and sent the ball sailing into the cheering crowd.