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I rock but I'm not a rock star

P SANGEETHA, TNN, Jun 9, 2010, 11.06am IST

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Jaggi Vasudev

...gushes spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev in a free-wheeling chat.

A meeting with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is an experience in itself. Blessed with a razor sharp memory and quick wit, Jaggi Vasudev is one person with whom you can instantly connect.

So, how did he get his 'rock star' image?

"Well, I'm not a rock star. I know all of them and they do not have a beard like me. Besides, rock stars may be cool on stage but back home, they

live a dejected life. I rock but I'm not a rock star," he starts off with a mischievous grin. "There is a notion among people that spirituality is not connected with technology. So, when I fiddle with my smart phone, they consider it cool. I use technology for official purposes. After all, these inventions by human beings were made to make our lives easier."

The Sadhguru was in the city to dedicate the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award to the people of Tamil Nadu. He had recently received the award from former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam for his project 'Green Hands'. "The project looks to increase the green cover of Tamil Nadu by 10 percent in the next 10 years. My mission is to plant more than a million trees throughout the state. It's a simple idea — if a person in Tamil Nadu plants a tree, nurtures it and plants another one, two years later, my mission will come true. Every one should realise that we are dependent on nature and not vice versa," he explains.

Quiz the Sadhguru on how to choose a guru and he says, "Don't go guru shopping. Trigger an interest in yourself and find the real you. Then, we will come to you."

Point out to him the recent scandals involving spiritual gurus and pat comes the reply, "It's sad that there is a lack of integrity. The problem starts with the common man. How many of us obey traffic rules when there are no policemen around? How many of us throw waste into the dustbin? When the common man lacks responsibility, he cannot blame the government for not doing its best. There are many spiritual leaders who truly work for the society but only the fraudulent ones get publicity. Just as we separate a rotten mango from a bunch of good ones, we should learn to choose a good spiritual guru."

So, does he think that the tolerance level of people is coming down? Says he, "Incidents of

intolerance have always been taking place. The only difference is that earlier, technology had not advanced and such incidents were kept under wraps. Now, they are broadcast.” Finally, ask him if he has any political aspirations? “Well, I intend to introduce all the politicians to spirituality,” he quips.

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