‘Religion is distinct from spiritualism’

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Chennai: It was a rare occasion as media giants The Times of India and The Hindu came together on Thursday for a social cause in support of Isha Foundation.

Mrs Indu Jain, chairman, The Times of India Group, told a media interaction session with Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev that “spiritual leaders like the Sadhguru have acquired powers. We should use this power to come closer to each other and become better individuals.”

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, said that the time had come to draw the line of distinction between religion and spiritualism. He said that Isha Foundation was a silent revolution taking place around Coimbatore, aimed at attaining self-reliance.

“We are not offering any miracles nor are we offering any kinds of worship,” the swamiji added.

He said that every human being should learn to enjoy living within himself. “The aim of Isha Foundation is to enhance human life on the planet,” he said, adding that the foundation had now evolved a scientific spiritual formula to provide inner harmony to human beings.

“Today, religion has been reduced to beliefs. Educated people have developed an allergy to spirituality because of wrong messages that have been sent over the last century,” he added.

N. Ravi, editor, The Hindu, emphasised the need for spiritual heads to conduct themselves in a manner which was for upliftment. “Media is shy of spiritual leaders because some of them started for personal gains and exploit the distress and gullibility of the public,” Mr Ravi added.

Isha Foundation is now working on a 15-year project which aims at uplifting the lives of rural people. Medical facilities and computer connectivity to villages are all part of this ambitious programme.