# Gauranga Das calls for revival of Dharma to tackle mental health and climate crises at IGF London 2025



On the closing day of IGF London 2025, spiritual leader and ISKCON monk Gauranga Das delivered a stirring speech at the Taj St. James’ Court, calling upon global leaders and change-makers to redefine progress through the revival of Dharma—anchored in cultural wisdom and inner balance. Highlighting the immense economic impact of Indians worldwide, he stressed their equally powerful potential in spearheading a transformation based on spiritual and ethical values. Defining Dharma as "Samaan," the principle of respect, Gauranga Das confronted pressing modern crises like digital addiction, loneliness, and mental health struggles, underscoring how globally, 230 million are addicted to social media, with 70% of teenagers in India spending seven hours daily online, and one in seven people worldwide battling mental health issues.

Gauranga Das shared his own transformative journey, transitioning from being a student at IIT Bombay to a spiritual teacher, reflecting on an exchange with Sundar Pichai, now CEO of Google, in which he quipped that while Pichai deals with Google, which creates stress, he deals with God, which releases stress. He highlighted the extraordinary influence of the Indian diaspora—36 million strong globally, including 16 million NRIs and 20 million of Indian origin. Among the Fortune 500 companies in America, 22 are led by Indian CEOs, collectively employing 1.7 million people and wielding a net worth of $1 trillion. Additionally, Indians own over 60% of American hotels, and 72 of the 650 U.S. unicorn startups boast Indian leadership. Gauranga Das paid homage to India’s spiritual heritage, crediting the Bhagavad Geeta for his life’s path from technology to transcendence and describing the Vedic tradition as an ocean of wisdom.

Gauranga Das is widely recognised for his extensive engagements at prestigious academic institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Chennai, IIM Bangalore, and global universities including MIT, Stanford, and Oxford. He has also addressed corporate giants like Google, Microsoft, and Tata Motors, focusing on themes such as the Art of Happiness and Life Lessons from the Bhagavad Gita. His efforts extend to television appearances and teaching life management skills at IIM Nagpur. Recently, in New York City, he delivered a talk titled "Reconciling Purpose of Life with Pursuit of Work," blending ancient Vedic principles with contemporary workplace challenges and emphasising that true prosperity arises from aligning work with higher purpose, sparking deep reflections among attendees.

Beyond personal and societal transformation, Gauranga Das has voiced urgent concerns regarding environmental sustainability, linking climate change to material addiction and promoting a sattvic lifestyle rooted in Krishna’s teachings. His participation at the C20 summit underscored spirituality’s vital role in inspiring sustainable human behaviour. Moreover, at the India Today Conclave, he contributed to a panel on the ethics of AI clones and digital immortality, emphasizing the need to preserve human values and morality amid rapid technological advances, highlighting tensions between innovation and spiritual-cultural grounding.

The IGF London 2025 forum, featuring over 100 speakers and 1,000 participants across iconic London venues, addressed diverse topics spanning technology, trade, culture, and commerce. Marking a decade since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark 2015 visit to the UK, the event celebrated the recent finalisation of the UK-India Free Trade Agreement, positioning IGF London as the first major international platform to explore this historic bilateral milestone. The forum also reflected on the pivotal role of the Indian diaspora in global leadership, mirrored in other sessions that discussed the diaspora’s contributions across business, politics, arts, and governance, illustrating the intertwined futures of the two nations founded on both economic collaboration and shared cultural heritage.

Gauranga Das’ participation and message at IGF London reinforce a growing discourse that the world’s pressing challenges—from mental health epidemics to environmental crises and the ethical dilemmas of emerging technologies—cannot be resolved by material progress alone. Instead, a revival of Dharmic values, spiritual insights, and cultural wisdom is essential to achieve holistic, sustainable progress that honours both the economy and the soul.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/), [[4]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/lifestyle/spotlight/can-spirituality-save-our-planet-gauranga-das-opens-up-on-his-c20-journey-climate-change-how-krishnas-teachings-can-change-humans/videoshow/112744951.cms)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/), [[6]](https://www.indiaspora.org/forum-for-good-2025-2/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/), [[2]](https://gaurangadas.com/about-shri-gauranga-das/inspirational-speaker/), [[3]](https://theunn.com/category/culture/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/lifestyle/spotlight/can-spirituality-save-our-planet-gauranga-das-opens-up-on-his-c20-journey-climate-change-how-krishnas-teachings-can-change-humans/videoshow/112744951.cms), [[5]](https://www.scribd.com/document/849343324/INDIA-TODAY-24-Mar-2025)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/), [[6]](https://www.indiaspora.org/forum-for-good-2025-2/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/), [[4]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/lifestyle/spotlight/can-spirituality-save-our-planet-gauranga-das-opens-up-on-his-c20-journey-climate-change-how-krishnas-teachings-can-change-humans/videoshow/112744951.cms), [[5]](https://www.scribd.com/document/849343324/INDIA-TODAY-24-Mar-2025), [[6]](https://www.indiaspora.org/forum-for-good-2025-2/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.passionateinmarketing.com/from-iit-to-inner-transformation-gauranga-das-calls-for-a-revival-of-dharmic-values-at-igf-london/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://gaurangadas.com/about-shri-gauranga-das/inspirational-speaker/> - Gauranga Das is an ISKCON monk and spiritual teacher who has delivered talks at prestigious institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Chennai, IIT Kharagpur, IIM Nagpur, IIM Bangalore, and universities like MIT, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and Oxford. He has also spoken at corporations including Google, Microsoft, Intel, Tata Motors, and Reliance Jio, as well as at conferences like the Indian Green Building Council and FICCI. His television appearances include Star Plus, Colors, and Zee TV. His presentations cover topics like the Art of Happiness, Corporate Athlete, Conflict Resolution, and Life Lessons from the Bhagavad Gita. He also serves as a visiting faculty at IIM Nagpur, teaching life management skills such as Purpose, Habits, Relationships, Focus, Determination, Discrimination, Humility, and Tolerance.
3. <https://theunn.com/category/culture/> - On May 16, 2025, Gauranga Das delivered a talk titled 'Reconciling Purpose of Life with Pursuit of Work' in New York City, organised by the Indian Consulate and the Bhakti Center. The event attracted around 150 attendees, including professionals, spiritual seekers, and community leaders. Gauranga Das, known for his work in sustainability, social reform, and spiritual education, shared insights that merged ancient Vedic principles with modern workplace challenges. He emphasised that true prosperity lies in aligning one's work with a higher purpose, drawing from ancient Vedic wisdom and personal practice. The discussion sparked a lively Q&A session, encouraging introspection on aligning personal purpose with professional endeavours.
4. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/lifestyle/spotlight/can-spirituality-save-our-planet-gauranga-das-opens-up-on-his-c20-journey-climate-change-how-krishnas-teachings-can-change-humans/videoshow/112744951.cms> - In an exclusive interview, Gauranga Das, a prominent figure from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), discusses the urgent issue of climate change. He shares his experience at the C20 summit and emphasises the importance of adopting a sattvic lifestyle. Gauranga Das reveals the connection between material addiction, religious principles, and environmental sustainability, highlighting how spirituality can play a crucial role in addressing global issues. He suggests that Krishna's teachings can inspire humans to change their approach towards the environment and adopt sustainable practices.
5. <https://www.scribd.com/document/849343324/INDIA-TODAY-24-Mar-2025> - At the India Today Conclave held at the Taj Palace in New Delhi, Gauranga Das participated in a panel discussion titled 'Playing God: the Right to Live Forever.' The panel, which also included Dr. Sajeeve Nair and Henrique Jorge, explored the risks and implications of AI clones, digital immortality, and biohacks aimed at extending human lifespans. Gauranga Das added a spiritual dimension to the debate, emphasising the need for values and morality to remain human even as technology advances. The discussion highlighted concerns about ethics, authenticity, and privacy in the context of emerging technologies.
6. <https://www.indiaspora.org/forum-for-good-2025-2/> - The Indiaspora Forum For Good 2025 featured a plenary session titled 'DNA of the Diaspora,' focusing on the impact of the Indian diaspora in business, politics, arts, and government. Speakers included Navin Chadda, Sumir Chadha, Niren Chaudhury, Bharat Desai, Faizal Kottikollon, Vivek Lall, Shanthini Naidoo, Ajay Piramal, Nadir Patel, Warsha Sardjoe, Himanshu Shah, Moira Shourie, Sree Srinivasan, Prita Venkatachalan, Sunil Wadhwani, and Lord Karan Bilimoria. The session aimed to discuss the role of the Indian diaspora in shaping India's future as a world leader by 2047, highlighting their contributions across various sectors.
7. <https://indica.events/event/symposium-on-role-of-saddarsanas-in-the-pursuit-of-brahmavidya/> - The Symposium on the Role of Ṣaḍdarśanas in the Pursuit of Brahmavidyā, organised by Indica Events, featured speakers such as Venkatraghavan S, founder of Arq, an energy technology business in London, and Maitri Gowswami, a practitioner of Pushti-Bhakti-Marg and a direct descendant of Mahaprabhu Shri Vallabhacharya. Venkatraghavan S is a student of Advaita Vedanta and has studied the prasthAna traya from Swami Paramarthananda and the Advaita Siddhi with its commentary, Laghuchandrika, from Mahamahopadhyaya Mani Dravid Shastrigal. He is currently translating the Siddhi into simple English on his website, www.advaitasiddhi.com. Professionally, he is the founder of Arq, an energy technology business in London, which developed a cleaner form of energy and was sold to a NASDAQ-listed company in 2023. Maitri Gowswami is a Vaishnavite by faith and a learner of Vedanta, Bharatiya culture, and Sanskrit scriptures. She has pursued an MA from Sampoornanand Vishvavidyalay, Varanasi, with Vedanta as the main subject.