

# *'Rally for Rivers' to reach Chennai tomorrow*

**□ Grand event will be held at YMCA Ground □ CM, Deputy CM to participate**

**NT Bureau**

Chennai, Sept 9:

Isha Yoga founder Jaggi Vasudev's initiative, 'Rally for Rivers' has successfully completed seven days since its start on 3 September and the team will reach Chennai tomorrow. They will be organising a grand ceremony at YMCA Ground, Nandanam with the active participation of Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, Deputy Chief Minister O Paneerselvam, Education Minister K A Sengotaiyan, Apollo Hospitals founder Dr Pratap C Reddy, sources said.

The rally was started by the Isha Yoga founder to prevent rivers and other water bodies from getting dried up. The initiative also strives for the interlinking of river which is still a challenging move in the country.

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Harsh Vardhan Singh, cricketers Virendhar Sewag, Mithali Raj and car racer Narain Karthikeyan flagged off the nationwide campaign around a week ago from VOC Park in Coimbatore, where river Noyyal is dying a slow death. The campaign also aims to bring a policy change at the national



level to save the rivers.

Harsh Vardhan at that time said the rally was a historic event for the whole country. He said it was sad that a rally was organised in India,

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blessed with so many rivers. 'This is our moral responsibility. It is our duty to see that we protect the rights of the future generation of children,' he said adding that the Central government would welcome Sadhguru when the

rally culminates in New Delhi on 2 October after covering 16 States and 7,000km.'

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev said that the phenomenon of simultaneous droughts and floods in the country was born out of the society's apathy. 'Our ancestors handed us the rivers, forests, canals and other natural resources. But the present generation has taken such a huge bite from it that there will be nothing left for future generations in the coming decades,' he said.

He added that instead of just taking up a social activity, he wanted to

bring in a long-term policy change.

'This 30-day journey is to create awareness about our rivers and ensure that all citizens take part in this change. It is historic that political parties of various States in spite of differences in their ideologies and State affairs are coming together for this cause. It is time that we say no to freebies and seek better developmental projects from the government and support them when they are implemented' he said.

Those who want to take part in tomorrow's event can contact 80009 80009 to register their names.