Ignore inane comments, says Jaggi Vasudev

Special Correspondent

COIMBATORE: Reacting to Asaram Bapu’s comments on how the Delhi girl could have escaped rape and assault, head of the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore Jaggi Vasudev said: “Some inane comments by an old man should not derail the focus and the significance of what is happening in the country right now.”

In a statement e-mailed to The Hindu, he said:

“For the first time, the people of India, who have been so docile and non-reactive to just about anything that happens to them, are outraged by this heinous act committed upon a young woman. Spontaneously, people are coming out on the streets, protesting and making their opinions very clear. It is not an organised movement, nor are people being mobilised; they are coming out of their own will and voicing their indignation.

“This is a great moment wherein India is willing to stand up against atrocities committed upon her people. When such a moment has come it is very important that we do not lose our focus, paying too much attention to inane, or I would say insane comments, made by someone. It is very important we treat him [Asaram Bapu] as we would treat any other individual expressing his archaic opinions without the necessary sense, and not as a spiritual leader.

“Every time a political leader, socialite, film personality or even someone from the spiritual community makes a comment, do not generalise and place all the politicians on the same platter, or the film personalities and the spiritual leaders on the same platter. Please treat them as the individuals they are and hold them responsible for what they have said. Do not spread it to the community and make the issue at hand weak with digression. Above all, seeking justice for this young woman can be a turning point in the way we hold womanhood in this country, from the way we treat women on our streets to the way we regard them in our homes.”