City comes together for the cause of rivers

All roads led to VOC Grounds on Sunday afternoon, thanks to the flag off event of the nation-wide campaign of the spiritual organisation in the city, Isha Foundation. The campaign, Rally for Rivers, which aims at bringing a policy change at the national level to revive the rivers in the country, was attended by a number of celebrities and politicians. The list included Indian cricket team’s legendary batsman Virender Sehwag, women’s cricket team skipper Mithali Raj, formula racer Narain Karthikeyan and Union environment, forest and climate change minister Harsh Vardhan Singh. The initiative is the brainchild of the spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.

Speaking about the campaign, Sadhguru said, “The southern tip of India is the country’s root and it’s essential to nurture it. I will be driving on the road for the next 30 days covering thousands of kilometers. The journey is to create awareness about our rivers and every citizen should take part in this drive for change.” The drive will cover 16 states and 7,000 km and will culminate in New Delhi on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. “This enthusiasm, this liveliness towards the cause will take many years to yield results. There are no immediate results in this. If they make a policy today, it will take 10 to 15 years to implement it. It will take another 20 to 25 years to see the actual rise in flow of rivers.”

Cricketer Mithali Raj opined that it was high time we spread this message across. “As we all are aware, our rivers are depleting at a fast rate. Rivers are not only our life lines, but, are of historical and religious importance, too. It’s time to serve our Mother Nature, as it has served and nurtured us all. We should come together to pledge our support to the cause to make sure our future generation doesn’t struggle for water,” Virender Sehwag reminisced about the days when rivers flowed in full capacity, “I was born in 1978. That was the time when rivers in the country were overflowing. I want to see the rivers flow with the same intensity before I die. This cause is not only for us, but, for our children and grandchildren as well.”