

Bharat Yatra to reach Jabalpur on 3rd October

Jabalpur, 6th September, Wednesday: The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation announced today, that the Bharat Yatra Nobel Peace Laureate Satyarthi will be undertaking to fight child sexual abuse and trafficking, will reach Jabalpur on the 3rd of October and Gwalior on the 9th of October. Jabalpur will host the Nobel Laureate on the 3rd of October and the march will progress to and reach Bhopal on the 4th of October, while the march will progress to and reach Jaipur on the 11th of October from Gwalior. Other than the two cities, the Yatra will be passing through Indore, Bhopal, Vidisha and Guna in Madhya Pradesh.

The Bharat Yatra will flag off from Kanyakumari on 11th September and culminate in New Delhi on 16th October.

This Yatra, launched to work towards creating an India that is safe for our children, has received whole hearted support from the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi.

Jagat Bahadur Singh (Social Activist), Sh. Kailash Gupta (Social Activist), Rajendra Tiwari, (Senior Advocate) and Dr. Rajesh Dhirawani, (Jabalpur Hospital & Research Centre) were hosted at the Samanvaya Kendra where they addressed all present, about the rampant problems of child sexual abuse and trafficking in the state of Madhya Pradesh and expressed deep regret at the many cases that have recently come to light about the rape of minors by family members or close friends.

According to National Crimes Records Bureau and National Family Health Survey-3, Madhya Pradesh is one of the 7 states where child marriage is the most prevalent.

8.9 Lakh children were found married before the attainment of legal age of marriage during 2011 Census.

Additionally, 11% (1,687 cases) of the country's total cases registered under **POCSO** in 2015 were from Madhya Pradesh. The state also contributed 14% to the total cases of crime against children registered across the country in 2015.

Mr. Satyarthi has often expressed his concern about the fear that exists in the society to stop victims or their families from speaking up. This fear emboldens the criminals to roam freely and commit more heinous crimes, thereby ruining many lives.

"Smarter laws and proper implementation is something we must demand from the authorities. India is going to progress only when we secure the happiness and security of our children." said Rajendra Tiwari

Jagat Bahadur Singh added, "The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation has bought to light an issue, that has been pervading the Indian society for many years. It is imperative to unite and raise our voices against the rape, abuse and trafficking of our children."

Mr. Kailash Satyarthi has been campaigning for the freedom, safety and security for children across the globe for the past 36 years. He has led the historic Global March Against Child Labor in 1998 that prompted the ILO to pass international conventions against the worst form of child labour, in addition to the Shiksha yatra in 2001, after which the Right to Education was included as a fundamental right in the Constitution of India. Mr. Satyarthi has, as a prolific thought leader, played a catalytic role in influencing social and political policies of our country. He won the Nobel Peace prize (2014) for his continuous efforts and struggle for the rights of children.

The Yatra will flag off from Kanyakumari on the 11th of September, from the Vivekananda Memorial, commemorating the anniversary of the great leader's address at Chicago in 1893.

Sh. Kailash Gupta said, "Are our children safe in this country? Are they protected? If the answers to these questions are no, then we must pledge to join and march with Kailash Satyarthi. Let us address the issues of child marriage and the increasing amounts of crimes against children in the state of Madhya Pradesh and across the country"

"Madhya Pradesh is one the 7 states where child marriage is most prevalent. The socio-economic pressure on our children, as well as the lack of awareness about the distressing psychological and physical duress that children must endure is an issue the citizens of this state and this country must take up immediately" added Dr. Rajesh Dhirawani.

Mr. Satyarthi and his foundation Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation have been preparing the ground for several months to launch the Yatra in September. As part of this ground work, Mr. Satyarthi has travelled the length and breadth of country meeting citizens, faith leaders, employees and corporates, parliamentarians, social organizations among others, all of whom have pledged their whole-hearted support to the Bharat Yatra, terming it as a necessary fight for our country to embark on and a noble cause to work towards.

The Yatra is the launch of the three-year campaign against child rape and child sexual abuse which is aimed at increasing awareness and reporting of the cases, strengthening intuitional response including medical health and compensations, ensuring protection for victims and witnesses during trials and increasing convictions of child sexual abuse in a time bound manner.

About Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation

The Foundation's mission is to create, implement and advocate child-friendly policies that ensure the holistic development and empowerment of children. For achieving these goals, the Foundation encourages government, businesses, civil society as well as children and the youth to participate in strategies and action that will safeguard children from the worst forms of abuse, including lack of education and health.

For more information, visit: www.satyarthi.org.in

For more information, contact:

Preeti Rawat

Preeti@thegutenberg.com

Paroma Bhattacharya

paroma@satyarthi.org