

Bharat Yatra to reach the Pink City on 11th October

Jaipur, 4th September, Monday: 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 Jaipur on the 11th of October 2017. Jaipur will host the Nobel Laureate on the 11th of October and the march will progress to and reach Virat Nagar on the 12th of October. 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.

Pandit Suresh Mishra (Social worker), Ummed Singh Rathore (Retired Police Officer and Social Worker), Mr. Rahul Singhi (Director, Poornima University, Jaipur and Social Worker) and Mr. H.C Ganeshya (Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court, Social Worker and Chairman, Sankriti Foundation) were hosted at the Pink City Press Club where they addressed all present, about the rampant problems of child sexual abuse and trafficking in the state of Rajasthan 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, child marriage is a cause of concern in Rajasthan. 12.9 Lakh children were found married before the attainment of legal age of marriage during 2011 Census and 24,051 married children in the age group of 15-17 years were pregnant.

Additionally, the report also states that the yearly average of number of children going missing has increased by almost 2 folds from 1996-2001 to 2011-2015.

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.

Said Pandit Suresh Mishra, "The state of Rajasthan has faced the issue of child marriage for many years. It has also united to take several steps against this regressive practice. Now citizens must unite once again to fight for the safety of our children and to protect them from child trafficking and sexual abuse. The time to act is now, and the Bharat Yatra provides that platform to begin our fight."

"The laws of the country and the implementation will be as successful as the citizens of our country make them out to be. Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat aims at creating a common consensus on the best way forward for us and we must all welcome the change it is trying to create", added Ummed Singh Rathore.

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.

According to Rahul Singhvi, "The Bharat Yatra will ensure that conversation and awareness about child sexual abuse and trafficking is created across the country. I appeal to all the citizens of Jaipur and Rajasthan to join this fight, for yourselves, for your state and for your country. It is the need of the hour and your voice will amplify the causes of concern, so that authorities can devise solutions for it."

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

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