

Andhra to set up Global Institute of Policy Making

Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's Bharat Yatra receives a historic welcome by Andhra Chief Minister and nearly 3 Lakh people

Kurnool, 19th September 2017, Monday: The [Bharat Yatra](#), led by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi reached Kurnool in Andhra on the ninth day of the 35-day long march across India. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri.Chandrababu Naidu has wholeheartedly declared his support for the Bharat Yatra.

The Bharat Yatra launched on 11 September at Kanyakumari by Mr Satyarthi is marching across the country to build unprecedented awareness on combating child sexual abuse and trafficking.

The Nobel Peace Laureate and his co-marchers were welcomed at the border by all religious faith leaders and it was for the first time in the state that all chanted for the well-being of children of the country.

The march saw the participation of nearly 3 lakh youth, and working professionals take to the streets and demand necessary rights for the youngest citizens of our country. The spirit showed by the city of Kurnool, to pledge and join the Bharat Yatra to make India safe for our children is what is needed for the country to take its steps towards combating this growing menace.

The Yatra marchers called upon the youth of the country to step up and fight for children across India. They urged people of Kurnool and the state of Andhra Pradesh to strive towards building a safe childhood and a safe India.

Said Mr Satyarthi, "No Chief Minister has marched on the streets to say no to child sexual abuse, not just in India but across the world. We created history today with Shri. Chandrababu Naidu. Let us drive our politics with the compassion he has displayed today, for the children of this country.

Shri. Chandrababu Naidu is known for his visionary skills and leadership. I appeal to him to be a pioneer and transform this state to one where there is utmost safety and security for children. Where they are free to learn and live happily, I urge him to create a safe childhood, for a safe India.

Not as a Nobel laureate but as someone who has been working on child rights for almost 40 years, I pledge to work with your state government to make Andhra Pradesh a child friendly state."

"We look at the sunrise state of Andhra as a pioneer in ensuring that the youth and its citizens rise for our sons and daughter. Let our children rise from the shadows of abuse and trafficking to live freely. Let this country moves from darkness to light.," he added.

Announcing that the state of Andhra Pradesh, will take the lead in the setting up of a global institute of policy making, under the direction of Mr. Satyarthi, for the safety and security of children, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said "Andhra Pradesh will become a state with zero tolerance on any form of a violence against children. The Andhra Pradesh government requests the central government to amend all the existing rules for the welfare of children in the country. Andhra should become a pioneer state to implement strict rules against child abusers."

Ever since its launch, Bharat Yatra has been drawing enormous support from citizens across India, including celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan who tweeted to his fans to support the Yatra.

People cutting across faith, geography, profession and vocation are coming together to support the Yatra and the creation of a safe India for our children. They are collectively striving for better laws, stronger implementation and faster modes of redressal for victims of abuse and trafficking

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had sent a personal letter to Kailash Satyarthi extending his support to the Yatra, which will cover 11000 kilometres across 22 States, including Tamil Nadu. Some of the key cities it covers include Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Guwahati, Bhopal, Jaipur, Srinagar among others.

At Kanniyakumari during the flag off Mr Satyarthi had declared, "I will not rest till children of this country are not safe. I am not going to stop fighting if the raping and abuse do not stop. I cannot sleep in peace until we win our war against rape and abuse. This moral epidemic haunts our nation, and it is time we fight against it, together."

Re-iterating his mission behind launching the Bharat Yatra, he said "Why am I marching? Because my children are being raped. I refuse to accept that eight children go missing and two are raped every hour. Each time if a single child is in danger, India is in danger. Bharat Yatra is to make India safe again for our children."

Kailash Satyarthi has been campaigning for the freedom, safety and security for children across the globe for the past 36 years. His Nobel Peace Prize (2014) was for his continuous efforts and struggle for the rights children.

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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