

Mahbubnagar welcomes Kailash Satyarthi's Bharat Yatra

Nobel Peace Laureate's Yatra receives an enthusiastic welcome from over 2000 students

Mahbubnagar, 19th September 2017, Wednesday: The [Bharat Yatra](#), led by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi reached Mahbubnagar in Telangana on the tenth day of the 35-day long march across India.

The Nobel Peace Laureate and his co-marchers were welcomed at Mahbubnagar by the NCC cadet who pledged to join the Bharat Yatra to ensure the realization of Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat. Mr. Vankata Krishnaiah (District & Sessions judge and JJB judge), Mr. Srinivas Goud(MLA) and Mr. Vithal Rao (Arya Samaj) were present at the march with Mr. Satyarthi.

The march saw the participation of over 2000 youth, take to the streets and demand necessary rights for the youngest citizens of our country. The spirit showed by Mahbubnagar, 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 Mahbubnagar and the state of Telangana to strive towards building a safe childhood and a safe India.

Earlier in the day, the Yatra had passed through the Gadwal district, where they were received warmly by all ministers and youth present. The district collector of Gadwal, Shri.Rajat Kumar Saini, speaking on the occasion said, "Out of 31 districts of Telangana, Jogulamba Gadwal has the highest incidence of child labour, marriage and school dropouts. This area is not progressing socially. Children get robbed off their childhood and their innocence. We need the civil society and political leaders to also come forward and support us."

Said Mr Satyarthi at Gadwal, "All those deficiencies and deficits that had existed in Gadwal are in the past now. It has been given new life, it is a new district, and with this comes the promise of creating an environment that is safe and secure for our children."

At Mahbubnagar he emphasised on the importance of speaking out and said "We've been taught to remain silent, our children are not encouraged to speak out and report on things that make them feel uncomfortable. According to government data, approximately 53% of the population has been sexually abused as a child. This is why the Bharat Yatra has taken shape. We are fighting so that our children can move from fear to freedom and from the darkness of rape and abuse to the light of safety and justice"

During the march, at the Government School, Arambagh Road, students demanded setting up of fast track courts for crimes against children.

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.

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

For more details on the Yatra, contact:

Preeti Rawat

Preeti@thegutenberg.com

Paroma Bhattacharya

paroma@satyarthi.org