

## **Nation-wide Bharat Yatra reaches Saharsa**

**Saharsa, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Thursday:** The [Bharat Yatra](#), launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Saharsa on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the eighteenth day of the 35-day long march across the country to build unprecedented awareness on combating child sexual abuse and trafficking.

The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation and the marchers were received by District Child Protection Unit, Assistant Director, Shri. Bhaskar Priyadarshi, and Child Welfare Officer, Shri. Bhaskar Kashyap and over 200 citizens of Saharsa.

Citizens of Saharsa marched with the Foundation from Kosi Niwas, Shankar chowk to Kala Bhavan, to raise their voices against the injustice meted out to children in our country. They called upon the youth of the country to fight against child sexual abuse and trafficking to make India safe for children.

"If sexual offences against children take place, it is the responsibility and the duty of the police to take note of it. We have tremendous power in our hands and we must use it for the betterment of society. Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat," said the Assistant Director, DCPU

Addressing the citizens, representatives from the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation spoke about the silence that pervades the system and the fear that exists in society about reporting crimes. The emphasis was also on the lack of proper implementation of the POCSO act, which has resulted in an abysmally low rate of conviction and high pendency of reported cases.

Ever since its launch, Bharat Yatra has been drawing enormous support from citizens across India, including Amitabh Bachchan who tweeted to his fans to support the Yatra. Earlier, Union Minister for Shipping and Finance Mr Pon Radhakrishnan had flagged off the Yatra from Kanyakumari along with Mr Satyarthi. In Trivandrum, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assured whole hearted support from his government in eradicating the menace of child sexual abuse and trafficking.

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 Karnataka. 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](http://www.satyarthi.org.in)

Support the Bharat Yatra through - <http://ket.to/bharatyatra>

For more details on the Yatra, contact:

**Preeti Rawat**

[Preeti@thegutenberg.com](mailto:Preeti@thegutenberg.com)

**Paroma Bhattacharya**

[paroma@satyarthi.org](mailto:paroma@satyarthi.org)