

Mumbai Metro dresses up for Kailash Satyarthi's Bharat Yatra

First time ever, metro associates with a social cause

Versova, 27th September 2017, Wednesday: Mumbai Metro at Versova station dressed up for the Bharat Yatra. The Yatra launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Versova, on 27th September. It is the seventeenth day of the 35-day long march across the country to build unprecedented awareness on combating child sexual abuse and trafficking.

The Nobel Peace Laureate and the marchers were received by Mr. Abhay Mishra, President, Transportation Business, Railways - Reliance Infrastructure and Colonel Shubhodoy Mukherjee, Senior Vice President, Reliance Infrastructure.

Acknowledging the warm welcome, Nobel Laureate Mr Kailash Satyarthi said, "For the first time, a metro rail is associating with such a campaign and cause. We salute Mumbai Metro and Harvard Business School alumni for supporting us in this initiative."

Recalling a story about how Shivaji admonished his soldiers for capturing women during war and for their inappropriate intentions, Mr. Satyarthi said, "I will not be one of those who sits quietly or looks away when I see a news on television. The yatri with me aren't going to keep silent against these atrocities. Our daughters are walking with us. They may have suffered, but they are fighting to ensure that no other girls suffer. India has been progressing. But if progress is on the surface and the inside is hollow, India is not ready to accept this. I call upon you all to become soldiers and fight with me against child sexual abuse and trafficking. "

Mr Satyarthi urged the Mumbai Police and Delhi police to start initiatives for children safety. Delhi Police has already started working on it and we want Mumbai Police's support. India is not going to remain silent. We are marching. Let us march,"

The launch also saw the release of a video declaring support for Nobel Peace Laureate Shri.Kailash Satyarthi's Bharat Yatra, by Bollywood Superstar Amitabh Bachchan.

In his [video](#), Mr Bachchan makes an impassioned plea to create a safe environment for the children of this country as he urges citizens to become proactive and come forward to support children across India. He appeals to the public to take a hard look at things happening in society and not to dismiss it, but break the pervasive silence that is ingrained since childhood, by saying "We saw, but we witnessed nothing. We heard, but our ears were deaf."

Nearly 1000 citizens rode the Bharat Yatra branded metro with Mr. Satyarthi and the Foundation 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.

"Metro has been running as a service for the people. The people have appreciated the service and we have received a lot of love from people of Mumbai.

Children are the future of our nation. When we got an opportunity to host Satyarthi ji, who has been fighting for children rights, we were happy to take this forward as India needs a cause like this for its children. Metro has about 700 cameras for security, and is disability friendly. Children if they want to travel alone, can safely do so. We are trying to contribute what we can towards your movement. I request you to please guide us in this" said Mr. Mishra.

Yesterday, Union Home Minister, Shri. Rajnath Singh, gave his assurance on passing the anti-trafficking law, which aligns with one of the key demands of the Bharat Yatra.

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.

The Karnataka High court will pay special attention to POCSO cases so the children can get justice. The Yatra was also supported by Andhra Pradesh and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu walked with the Foundation to promote awareness about the cause. He also announced that the state of Andhra Pradesh would house a global policy institute dedicated to the well-being and security of children across the country.

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

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

For more details on the Yatra, contact:

Preeti Rawat
Preeti@thegutenberg.com

Paroma Bhattacharya
paroma@satyarthi.org