**Over 25000 citizens mobilized for Bharat Yatra in Guna**

*Madhya Pradesh will take 4 years to close all their pending rape and child abuse cases*

**Guna, 9th October 2017, Monday:** The [Bharat Yatra](http://bharatyatra.online), launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Guna on 8th October, the twenty-eighth day of the 35-day long march across the country to build unprecedented awareness on combating child sexual abuse and trafficking.

The Bharat yatra marchers were received at Aron Village, at Saskiye School by Mr. Niranjan Siroti, School Principal, SDM Mr. Arvind Vajpayee.
The marchers also were received at the Srinath Gaushala where Swami Ganeshanand ji welcomed the Yatra to Guna.

Addressing over 400 students, noted child rights activist and lawyer, Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu emphasised on the need to stand together and raise our voice unitedly for the children.

“We all have a fire within which needs to be ignited. This Yatra needs to change the thinking of our society.
Development of any individual or a society can happen only when its people are living fearlessly. Single minded focus on economic development is not enough. Madhya Pradesh will take 4 years to close all their rape and child abuse cases if no more cases are registered in future. We need a society who can boycott perpetrators rather than blame the victim".

Shri. Panna Lal, Member, Legislative Assembly said " We welcome the Bharat Yatra in our district. I believe today's youth needs proper education. Today moral values are missing amongst our youngsters and our education system need to create those values. "

On 9th October, Mr Ribhu was joined by Dr. Raghavendra Sharma, President, Child Protection Commission of Madhya Pradesh and Mr. Rajesh Jain, District Magistrate. The march from Sanjay Stadium to Shastri Park saw the citizens demand for a safe and secure India for our children. Over 6000 school students joined this march, while slogans of ‘down with child trafficking’ and ‘stop child abuse’ resonated across Guna. The Bharat Yatra mobilized over 25,000 citizens during the rally and public meeting, emphasising on the need to take a firm stand for our children and on being the voice that will drive the cultural revolution in the country.

 “Bharat Yatra is a movement by the children of our country and today I have witnessed a wonderful response here at Guna. Children are the future of our country and if this kind of excitement and encouragement is shown by one fourth of the population of our country then nobody will feel unsafe in the future,” added Mr. Ribhu

Earlier last month, 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](http://www.satyarthi.org.in)

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

*For more details on the Yatra, contact:*

**Preeti Rawat Paroma Bhattacharya**

Preeti@thegutenberg.comparoma@satyarthi.org