**Death penalty for child sexual abuse should be enforced- Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

*Kailash Satyarthi and MP Government to collaborate on combating violence against children*

**Bhopal, 6th October 2017, Friday:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasised the need to award the death penalty to the perpetrators of sexual abuse on children.

Speaking at the [Bharat Yatra](https://bharatyatra.online/) public rally in Bhopal, that Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi is undertaking, the chief minister assured Mr. Satyarthi that he would take up this issue in the monsoon session of the Parliament as the state of Madhya Pradesh was committed to becoming child-friendly and ensuring that the well-being of children is of paramount importance.

Said Mr. Chouhan, “I will propose during the monsoon session, those found guilty of child sexual abuse, they should be hanged to death. Perpetrators cannot live freely in society. We must spread awareness against this menace”

Pledging for Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat and declaring his support for the Yatra, the Chief Minister added, “I appreciate the efforts by Mr Kailash Satyarthi who has spent his entire life fighting for the rights of children. These children are our future and we need to protect them from all kinds of evils. I want to assure you that my Government is with you, the entire 7.5 crore population of Madhya Pradesh is with you.”

The minister indicated a State-wide mission on child protection, stating that the government of Madhya Pradesh would like to host Mr. Satyarthi post his Bharat Yatra and collaborate with him and the Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation to formulate the best practices for the safety, security of children.

Mr. Satyarthi, expressing his happiness at the support extended by the Chief Minister, said “Child sexual abuse is a blot on our great country. Madhya Pradesh is one state where all the POCSO cases could be resolved in the next four years. However, since this state has such an active Chief Minister, the cases can be resolved faster than that. I am sure that the state will not leave any stone unturned to get rid of child sexual abuse. If we work together, the entire Madhya Pradesh will soon get rid of child sexual abuse.”

Citizens of Bhopal joined the Bharat Yatra, marching from Dussehra Maidan, TT Nagar, with slogans of stop child abuse and down with child trafficking, resonating across the city.

Later in the day, Mr. Satyarthi addressed over 1500 students at Bhopal School of Social Science to sensitize them about the crimes committed against children and urging them to do their bit for the future of the country.

In Madhya Pradesh, The Bharat Yatra has travelled to Bhopal, Indore and Vidisha, Mr. Stayarthi’s hometown, to create mass awareness on the heinous crimes of child abuse and trafficking.

 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>

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