

## **Compassion will help eradicate all forms of violence against children from India soon**

Indore pledges for Safe Childhood-Safe India

**Indore, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, Tuesday:** The Bharat Yatra, launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Indore on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, the twenty-third 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 his co-marchers were welcomed by enthusiastic children who were keen on ensuring that they voice their concerns and participate in the Yatra.

Said Mr. Satyarthi, "I have returned home after travelling across the country. The menace of child sexual abuse and trafficking is growing day by day. Would we want India's growth story to be written on the basis of miseries, exploitations and agonies of our children? There should be no place in our country for those who attempt exploit our children, physically, mentally or sexually. Looking at the enthusiasm of all the youth present here, I am positive that their compassion will help eradicate all forms of violence against children from this country very soon."

The march from Holkar college, Janta Chowk to Devi Ahilya Vishva Vidhyalaya (DAVV) University Campus saw the participation of nearly 4000-5000 youth, and working professionals take to the streets and demand necessary rights for the youngest citizens of our country. Slogans of 'stop child abuse' and 'down with sexual assault' resonated across Indore. The Yatra marchers called upon the citizens of the country to step up and fight for children across India. They urged people of Indore to strive towards building a safe childhood and a safe India. The public rally held at Holkar college, Janta Chowk, organized by Kautilya Academy and ABVP, saw school children join the Bharat Yatra in large numbers.

Later in the day, the Nobel Peace Laureate was hosted by Indore Management Association, where he sensitized students about the need to stand up and break the silence that pervades society and prevents people from fearlessly fighting this growing menace. Indore Management Association also pledged during the event at The Daly College that they would work for under privilege children and this inspiration came from the Bharat Yatra led by Shri. Kailash Satyarthi.

Shri. Sanjay Singh, a local of Indore, emphasised that he had never seen a non-political rally, fighting for such a noble cause. Mr. Satyarthi's passion had inspired him to take a leave of absence from his job and join the marchers to pledge for Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat.

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

**Paroma Bhattacharya**  
[paroma@satyarthi.org](mailto:paroma@satyarthi.org)