**Bharat Yatra reaches Allahabad**

*City strives for Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat*

**Allahabad, 6th October 2017, Friday:** The [Bharat Yatra](http://bharatyatra.online), launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Allahabad on 6th October, the twenty-sixth 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 Yatra core marchers were welcomed by Dr. Govind Das, Principal, Dr. Shayama Prasad Mukherjee College, and students who were enthusiastic about joining the Yatra to foster a safe country for the future.

The march from Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Degree College in Phaphamau saw the participation of 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 Allahabad. The Yatra marchers called upon the citizens of the country to step up and fight for children across India. They urged people of Phaphamau to strive towards building a safe childhood and a safe India.

“The Bharat yatra and the Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation is standing for a noble cause. You have sown seeds in the city. We promise to do everything in our capacity to further this cause”, said Dr Manju Singh, NSS coordinator.

Spokespersons from the Foundation emphasised on the need to break the silence around sexual abuse and assault, stating that although laws are in place, the implementation of those laws needs to increase, so that they act as deterrents to the perpetrators of these crimes.

Stressing on the fact that trafficking of children is increasing by leaps and bounds, where girls are sold at prices less than those of animals, they appealed to the government to ensure strict action, proper implementation and quick redressal for victims of abuse and assault.

The march from Allahabad will progress to Lucknow to sensitize the citizens on how they can play a role in preventing the growth of child sexual 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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