**I hope Government passes anti-trafficking law soon;Kailash Satyarthi**

*Over 1200 people pledge for Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat*

**Dehradun, 13th October 2017,13th October:** The [Bharat Yatra](http://bharatyatra.online), launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Dehradun on 13th October, the thirty second 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 at the GEH University, Dehradun.
Shri. Prakash Pant, Cabinet Minister, Government of Uttarakhand, Shri. Ajay Bhatt, State, President, Uttarakhand, Shri. Umesh Agrawal, BJP President, Dehradun, Shri. Yogendra Khanduri, Chairman, SCPCR, Dr. Kamal Ghanshala, President, Graphic Era university and Shri. Ashok Kumar, ADGP Law and Order were present with Mr. Satyarthi at the Bharat Yatra.

Faith leaders Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, Paramarth Niketan and Sadhwi Saraswati Ji, Divine Shakti Foundation joined the Nobel Peace Laureate in his mission.

Said Mr. Satyarthi, “I am hopeful that the Government of India will soon pass the anti-trafficking law in the country. As a society parents teach their children to remain silent and not speak out. Children are not safe at our homes. Everywhere we get to hear that children are getting molested in schools by drivers, conductors, and especially teachers. Bharat Yatra is for stopping this menace from growing.”

Congratulating Mr. Satyarthi on his Bharat Yatra and on his noble mission, Mr Ashok Kumar said, “We should take a pledge that we will not support child slavery at our home office or factory. I promise Mr. Satyarthi that any case which comes to us, we will take care of it properly and on priority”

The GEH University saw over 1200 citizens of the city unite and take a pledge to ensure that they will do everything in their power to ensure that they fight for and protect the youngest citizens of the country.

According to official reports, in the state of Uttarakhand, more than two thousand children were reported missing during 2011-2015.In 98% of the cases registered in 2015 under POCSO 4 & 6 (Penetrative sexual assault on children), the perpetrator was known to the survivor/child victim.

“Two months ago, we celebrated our Independence Day but we should ask ourselves, are we independent? The answer is no. Around 3.5 crore children in India don't have the opportunity to go to school, because they are prey of child slavery, or prostitution. I believe that until every child in this country is not free we cannot call India free.”

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