**Smt. Kirron Kher joins the Bharat Yatra**

Being ‘people’ doesn't mean just life but also dignity says Kailash Satyarthi

**Chandigarh, 12th October 2017, Thursday:** The [Bharat Yatra](http://bharatyatra.online), launched by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on 11 September, reached Chandigarh on 12th October, the thirty-first 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 at the Punjab University and the Chandigarh SCPCR, by Smt. Kirron Kher, Member of Parliament, Chandigarh, Smt. Harjinder Kaur, Chairperson, CSCPCR and enthusiastic children who were keen on ensuring that they voice their concerns and participate in the Yatra.

Said Mr. Satyarthi, “There are 4 P’s which we must take care of, first is people. The people today are in danger.23 crore kids live in countries which are in constant war,130 million kids are prey of war,15 crore cannot even dream of freedom because they are victims of child slavery and millions are sold at prices lower than that of animals. Being ‘people’ doesn't mean just life but also dignity. Second P is planet. Global warming is an alarming issue and affects people and their activities. The third P is Profit or prosperity, about 10-12 years ago, people had prosperity but now they don't have it at all. The last P is peace, if we cannot protect our children against violence, then we cannot create a peaceful and sustainable world”.

The march inside the university campus and the event was attended by over 2000 citizens who pledged for a Safe Childhood-Safe India for the children of the country.
Slogans of ‘child trafficking down’ and ‘stop child abuse’ resonated across the campus, as students looked to mobilize and drive the change necessary for India.

Kirron Kher expressed her happiness at the presence of the Nobel Peace Laureate in Chandigarh.
Addressing the gathering, she said, “I welcome Supreme Court decision of any person having sex with his minor wife will be considered a rape offender. Child abuse and sexual exploitation, that is happening with our children is not new. This has been happening for a long time. Violence against children is violence against humanity and society. Dignity of a child is very important and when it breaks in childhood, everything shatters. Our silence is shocking. This Bharat Yatra will make the difference this country needs and will achieve the objectives it has set.”

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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