



“This march will fire people up. And the country and the people will be energized and they will put a stop to the abuses committed against them [children].”

Nitu, age 17, Bharat Yatra marcher

Nearly 1 million people of all ages, wound their way through the biggest cities and smallest villages, from the southern most tip of India to the northern mountains in Srinagar, marching, forming symbolic human chains, watching street theatre, listening to stories, holding vigils and attending rallies. Together they chanted, “Child Trafficking, Down, Down, Stop, Stop, Child Sexual Abuse” and pledged to #MakeIndiaSafe.

On September 11, Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi together with his wife, Sumedha Kailash, and hundreds of youth who were trafficked or forced to toil as slaves, laborers and victims of sexual, physical, mental abuse and other exploitation, launched the Bharat Yatra. An 11,000 km march across 22 states in 35 days, the Yatra ignited the nation's compassion sparking a national dialogue on India's children and galvanized public support for immediate, urgent enforcement of India's child protection laws to make India's children safe. The Yatra highlighted violence against children, specifically child sexual abuse and trafficking. In the spirit of India's rich history of social reform through marches, meeting people in the streets, with more than 200 events organized to engage young people, government officials, policy makers, faith leaders, civil society organizations, law enforcement personnel, teachers, students, the media, business leaders and the public at large turned out and called for the prioritization of children in India's national and state policies. The final stretch of the Yatra wound its way to the Presidential Palace, where the President of India echoed the sentiment of the more than 800,000 people who participated in the Yatra and declared that India would not be able to meet its goal of a "New India" by 2022 until violence against children was tackled.

भारत यात्रा BHARAT YATRA

- 1 billion online imprints
- 500 million+ reached through print and online and media partners
- Millions of students reached in 25 states on October 11 with a lesson on child safety from sexual abuse.
- 2 million views in 24 hours of the [Bharat Yatra theme song](#) recorded by Indian Ocean and rescued child laborers, promoted by Google India
- 1.4 million+ pledges to make India, their state, their town safe for children
- 800,000+ participants
- 250,000 educational institutions engaged
- 11,000 kilometers covered in 35 days
- 5000+ civil society partners, including Rotary Club International (India)
- 290+ core marchers
- 29 religious leaders publicly pledged their support

Watch Bharat Yatra Video

Impact of the Bharat Yatra

The cornerstone of the success of the Bharat Yatra is the broad based partnership of government, civil society, schools and universities, faith groups, businesses and more coming together to ensure the protection of India's children. Teams began follow-up with these diverse partners immediately to ensure sustained action moving forward.

Supreme Court: ruled

- Sex with a girl younger than 18 is considered rape regardless of marital status; and
- Government of India to finance and work with Kailash Satyarthi's teams to implement facial recognition technology.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh (the head of the Ministry of Home Affairs) committed to pass an anti-trafficking law pending for 1+ years.

State Leaders: 4 Chief Ministers pledged zero tolerance of all violence against children. 3 Deputy Chief Ministers and two state Governors participated in the Yatra.

Judiciary: Members pledged to

- Establish new child friendly courts; and
- Speed children's access to justice by reducing time to hear and complete cases on child trafficking and abuse.



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights mandates all cinemas across India to show a PSA on child sexual abuse prior to every film.

Bollywood celebrities:

- Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Dhanush, Latha Rajinikanth, Vivek Oberoi and the band Indian Ocean pledged to help end the buying, selling and sexual exploitation of young people; and
- Amitabh Bachchan hosted Kailash Satyarthi on Kaun Banega Crorepati (Who Wants to be a Millionaire).

Corporate leaders pledge their support through the Confederation of Indian Industries, Young Indians.

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, requested that Kailash Satyarthi design a five-year roadmap to tackle violence against children. The President noted that Prime Minister Modi's vision of a "New India" by 2022, will not be achieved without addressing the most basic needs of our children.

"This is not the end of the Bharat Yatra, this is just the beginning. The fight will go on."

~ Nitu, age 17, Bharat Yatra marcher