

Launch of the Bharat Yatra -Chennai

The Bharat Yatra -Chennai, Nationwide campaign for safe childhood, was launched this morning at Stella Maris College in the presence of Hon'ble Justice, Ms. Indira Banerjee, Chief Justice, Madras High Court & Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate 2014.

The Chief Justice, keen to make the audience aware of available legal options referred to the Legal Services Authorities Act at every level, state, district and taluk. Using such services free of any charge, our focus should be to report incidents of abuse, for abusers must be punished. The abused are not at fault. Wishing the yatra 100% success, she symbolically flagged it off.

Shri Kailash Satyarthi who was received on stage with a thunderous applause by the student gathering, struck the key note of his address in his opening lines. He is an angry man he said, referring to the impact of situations such as those shared by Sangeetha, a young student, supported by the NGO, Karunalaya. Young people who are of the present, not of some distant future, have power and they need to be angry; angry at the violence and abuse that children are subjected to. He was quick to emphasize that this anger should not turn into violence or destruction, but angry young people, should channelise their energy into constructive action and challenge abuse.

Shri Satyarthi raised a slogan: Safe Childhood, Safe India and had this repeated in Tamil, a slogan that resounded through the audience, loud enough, said Kailashji, to reach the capital. This was not to be a mere slogan but a resolve, a commitment. The yatra was to move from fear to freedom, from darkness to light. It was a war on rape, sexual abuse and trafficking. He led the gathering in taking a pledge and soon after, with all the college students and those from some schools who were present, the yatra began...