

Interventions required to ensure peace: Satyarthi

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Jaipur: There are situations which call for extreme intervention but only to ensure peace, said Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, who was in the city on Saturday, in response to queries raised by students of a private university on the ongoing tension between India and Pakistan. "Restoring peace is part of our values and history. Our country believes in peace but it's also the land of Mahabharata and Ramayana. Restoring peace was the sole reason for these wars," said Satyarthi.

Later, during the press conference, he said the people should have full faith in the government which was dealing with the situation.

"I am neither a politician nor a diplomat, so I will not comment. I love people across the globe, including Indians and Pakistanis, and advocate peace. I am not in favour of any war. The solution to these problems will come when 10 crore youths globally take up these issues," said Satyarthi to the press. He had shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Pakistan's Malala Yousufzai in 2014.

He expressed concern over the participation of youth in violence in countries like Syria and Afghanistan,



Kailash Satyarthi during a function at Birla Auditorium on Saturday

among others in the troubled region, and called for a '100 million for 100 million' campaign to involve the younger generation in the fight for children's rights, including that for education and health-care.

While pointing out to the problems faced by children in Rajasthan, he said, "Children here face a different set of problems such as child marriage and child labour. The former, a social evil, is still in practice despite proper laws," he said.

Satyarthi was in Jaipur to receive the JK Lakshmipat University Laureate Award 2016.

Speaking about the recent census report, which showed that 8.47 lakh children in the

5-14 age group were working as labourers, he said, "Rajasthan is third in terms of having the highest number of child labourers in the country. This state, known for its valour and bravery, has become a safe haven for those employing child workers. It's shocking that children below the age of five are also being forced to work," he said.

In reply to a question, he said that people should stop giving alms to discourage begging. "You often display your kindness by giving alms. But we are not sure if it reaches the children. There are organized gangs working behind begging rackets. The police too take advantage of this situation," said Satyarthi.