



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

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01

# Missing Padyatra

2017

**COLLABORATION WITH**  
'Missing', a non-profit organization working on the cause of girl trafficking across the country.

**A TAPAS FOUNDATION  
CAMPAIGN**  
addressing schools all over the country to spread awareness and to start a dialogue on the issue among the rural communities.



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## Social Evils: Exploiting the Vulnerable

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While child trafficking is a rampant crime across India, the conversation and the level of awareness around it is still limited.

Further complicated by the dearth of data on the occurrence of this crime, the issue does not get its due attention and thousands of children find themselves lost in the suffocating world of human trafficking.





## OUR CAMPAIGN

In 2017, while still a vagabond solo-street play artist, Vipul Singh, the founder of Tapas Foundation joined 'Missing', a non-profit organization working on the cause of girl trafficking across the country.

The campaign, named "Missing PadYatra" covered major parts of the country, from Kolkata to Ranchi to Bihar to Uttar Pradesh, finally culminating in Delhi. Through the medium of the campaign, Vipul and team addressed schools all over the country to spread awareness and to start a dialogue on the issue among the rural communities.





01

OUTREACH

The campaign covered over **40 schools in Uttar Pradesh** where the lack of awareness was the most profound. A large scale awareness campaign, Vipul and team managed to **reach and engage with over 2 lakh people** on the sensitive yet pressing issue of child trafficking in India.





02

METHODS USED

Through the medium of **street plays, murals, graphic illustrations and a specially designed interactive game by 'Missing Link Trust'**, the conversation was furthered to lakhs of people.

The "Missing PadYatra" was concluded with a walkathon in Delhi, attended by over 1200 people, comprising artists, motivational speakers, activists and many more furthering the dialogue on child trafficking in India.



# Locations of Campaign

- 
- 1) Kolkata
  - 2) Ranchi
  - 3) Hazaribag
  - 4) Jhumri Talaiya
  - 5) Koderma
  - 6) Nawada
  - 7) Patna
  - 8) Ballia
  - 9) Banaras

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- 10) Jaunpur
  - 11) Kerakat
  - 12) Allahabad
  - 13) Lucknow
  - 14) Lakhimpuri
  - 15) Farrukhabad
  - 16) Agra
  - 17) Delhi



# Campaign Images

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02

# BHARAT YATRA

A TAPAS FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN  
ON CHILD LABOUR & CHILD TRAFFICKING

In partnership with:

Kailash Satyarthi  
Children's Foundation &  
Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

*An Awareness March in  
Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar  
Pradesh, Delhi.*





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- 1) Campaign Outline
- 2) Spreading Awareness
- 3) Receiving Support
- 4) Gaining Momentum
- 5) Starting the dialogue across states
- 6) Building a Community

# CAMPAIGN OUTLINE

The "Bharat Yatra" was initiated by the 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan' and the 'Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation' covering thousands of kilometres between Kolkata and Delhi, from September to October, 2017. The states covered were Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

For this campaign, we patterned with the Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi. With such profound knowledge and experience working on the issue, it is a great honour to be able to work with him on one of his initiatives. His name is synonymous with social work and child protection in India.

Such an opportunity was accorded to Vipul Singh, the founder of Tapas Foundation, the working as a solo-street play artist and independent social activist, in 2017.



# SPREADING AWARENESS

Focused on the diminishing the prevalence of child labour and child trafficking in the country, the campaign spread across the country with the aim of advocating for reforms and increasing awareness when it came to these sensitive topics.

Over the span of the campaign, numerous street play performances were played out in different schools across the country, with over 2000 children joining the movement. Vipul Singh, as a crucial part of the campaign, addressed over a lakh people during his association with the campaign.





# RECEIVING SUPPORT

The movement was joined by the head of the Ministry of women and child development of Jharkhand in the state, and by the Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi himself in Ranchi, bringing more thrust to the impact of the movement.

The campaign was a great success, with many instances that reinforced a sense of hope in a better future. One such instance was the warmth provided by the Girdih people of Jharkhand who welcomed the campaign with a local 'welcome song' composed specifically for the campaign.



# GAINING MOMENTUM

*Focused on the diminishing the prevalence of child labour and child trafficking in the country, the campaign spread across the country with the aim of advocating for reforms and increasing awareness when it came to these sensitive topics.*

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# STARTING THE DIALOGUE ACROSS STATES

WITH THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS COVERED AND LAKHS OF PEOPLE ENGAGED AND ENLIGHTENED, THE DIALOGUE ON THE NEED TO CURB THE RISE OF CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING IN INDIA WAS TAKEN FURTHER.





# BUILDING A COMMUNITY



03

# BURNT - STORIES BEHIND SCARS

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2017

**PICASSO FOR SOME,  
REALITY OF MANY.**





# EVILS OF SOCIETY

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Acid attack is an attack not just on the physicality of a person but on their very identity. The victims feel their entire life corroded away under the sting of the acid, and the survivors of acid attack live each day under the burden of the changed perceptions of society towards them.

# SURVIVOR'S AGONY

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The survivors find themselves in a changed world, where no one wants to accept them anymore and listen or understand their story. Stripped of all the dignity of their former lives, most of the survivors are forced to live in isolation, often ending up suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts. They even find all avenues of employment closed to them, making them question their identity further.

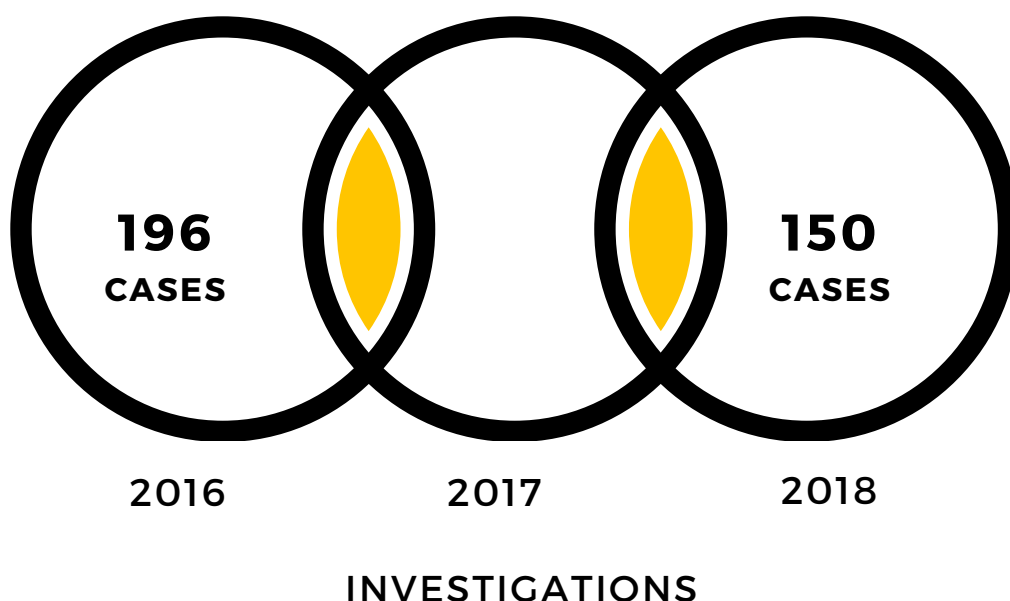
# NUMBERS - ACID ATTACKS



When it comes to instances of acid attacks, India is among the top 10 countries, with states like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal topping the charts. According to the data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau, between 2014 and 2018, there have been a total of 596 acid attack cases in the country with 1483 victims of acid attacks.

## POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

Despite the rise in instances of acid attacks in the country, the total number of acid attack cases that the police investigated has shown a downward trend, with the number dropping from 196 in 2016 to 150 in 2018.



# STRUGGLES

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Even after the investigation, justice is a long way for acid attack survivors. When it comes to conviction in the 849 acid attack cases which were sent to trial in 2016 and 2017, only a total of 25 cases resulted in conviction out of the 67 which completed trial.

***While the conviction rate in acid attack cases went up in 2018, only 19 out of the 523 cases which went for trial ended in conviction.***

The number of acid attack cases keep adding up but the perpetrators usually get off scot free after running people's lives. And the survivors have little recourse and acceptance to be had, losing their very right to a dignified life.





# BETTER DAYS AHEAD

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But many organizations are coming to the aid of acid attack survivors, helping them get back to a semblance of normal life. One such initiative was taken up by Sheroes Cafe which exclusively employs acid attack survivors to help them regain financial independence and a sense of identity.



# RARE JUSTICE

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While cases like that of Laxmi Agarwal led to some much needed acknowledgement of the heinous nature of the crime through the introduction of separate sections in the Indian Penal Code - 326A and 326B - making the offence non-bailable and specifying a minimum of ten years to life imprisonment.



# BURNT -

## A DOCUMENTARY SERIES

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most survivors find their voices muted when trying to tell their stories. So, ***Tapas foundation initiated a documentary series 'BURNT – stories behind scars' of the brave women working at the Sheroes cafe in Lucknow, providing them a platform to tell their stories.***

Our founder, Vipul Singh interviewed these women in 2017 on their lives before the incidents, the events leading up to the incident, their experience of the attack, and their lives since, bringing forth a series of acid attack survivor stories.



Watch the campaign video here:  
<https://youtu.be/TSLSwx8vdzM>



Each of these women, Jeetu, Preeti, Kavita, Rupali and Anshu (link to individual videos) have shown tremendous courage in rebuilding their lives and living them on their own terms post the attacks.

Yet, justice is still distant for some of them. And their stories are reminiscent of the fact that there is an immediate need for attention and action in the matter. While newer and stricter laws have been introduced to punish the offenders, much more emphasis is needed in restricting the sale of such corrosives in the first place. Despite new guidelines, it still remains fairly easy for anyone to procure this life-altering substance.

# VISION

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This is our initiative, alongside the likes of other organizations working on rehabilitating acid attack survivors like Make Luv Not Scars and the acclaimed movie 'Chhapak' to end the stigma around acid attack survivors while pressing for stricter measures to curb the instances of acid attack.

We hope to have highlighted the issue further for it to get the attention it deserves, and for the survivors to get to live their life with dignity as a basic human right.



**THANK**  
**YOU.**