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Retired Engineer undertakes Padhayatra against Torture

Dilip Kumar Bhattacharya of West Bengal is on an 8500 km Padhayatra for the cause of National Integration among others. Bhattacharya hails from Roorampur in Hooghly District of West Bengal. He is a retired Railway Engineer. He is going on this 8500 km Padhayatra, emphasizing the need for creating a torture free India, abolishing untouchability and establishing religious amity.

Bhattacharya, who has received formal training in mountaineering, began his Padhayatra on Gandhi Jayanthi i.e. on 02.10.05. Walking an average distance of about 25 km per day, on reaching Madurai he had covered a distance of 3300 km in 156 days. Well versed in Hindi, English, Telugu and Oriya, Bhattacharya has been walking through coastal regions of West Bengal to that of Tamil Nadu via Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

After visiting Ramananthapuram District where the Hon'ble President Mr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's hometown is situated, he came to Madurai from where he would proceed to Gujarat via Tuticorin, Kanyakumari, Kerala, Karnataka and Goa.

He says, "I have embarked on this Padhayatra without receiving funds from anyone. I meet all my expenses with my own money. Service organizations like the Madurai based People's Watch - Tamil Nadu provide me lodging facilities and food. I get endorsements from the Police Stations on the way regarding the date and time of my arrival there. I have been witnessing untouchability being practiced in all the places that I have passed in Tamil Nadu and there is widespread corruption everywhere. I spread awareness on these issues to people. I have been witnessing that people are struggling to make ends meet and so, deciding to be frugal in my expenses, I spend no more than Rs.50 a day which is spent on one meal and two phone calls to my wife. The poor are being enslaved by those with money and power. This situation needs to be changed." He has planned to bring his Padhayatra to a close at Porbandar in Gujarat after which he intends to meet the President of India and share with him his experiences.