

## Empowering Today Enriching Tomorrow From The Desk of The CEO

Dear friends,

Although we have ended the year 2012 with deep remorse about what the 'progressive' Indian society has to offer to fifty percent of its counterparts - its women; let us in this year, 2013, resolve for a 'zero tolerance' to any form of violence against women.



**Shri. Prafulla Parakh**

The brutal gang rape of the young Delhi student in December 2012, who succumbed in spite of her strong desire to live and fight for justice, has rocked the nation. In a strong voice its angry citizens - women and men - are demanding for stringent legal action, strong laws and sensitized mechanisms to deal with and prevent such heinous acts; including all forms of sexual harassment and crimes against women. This spontaneous uprising has driven attention towards scores of women - children, young or old - who face various forms of harassment and abuse in their daily lives; whether in cities, towns, villages or remote tribal areas; whether inside homes or in public places.

The issue of violence against women, we must understand, is deep-rooted. It is rooted in the way society has been structured - to cut short - the male dominated society. It is rooted in the minds of both men and women who have been brought-up in this kind of society; and violence is used as a tool to exercise power and control over women in order to keep the status-quo. The appalling sex ratio of female: male = 940:1000 (2011) of our country is strong evidence of the prevalent gender discrimination.

The changing value priorities in this dynamic globalized society of the 21st century that is driven by materialistic aspirations, have added fuel to the fire. The media that display violence and at the same time reinforce stereo-typical images of men and women, social networking sites that invade privacy of individuals, the generation gap and lack of communication within homes and families, are a few examples that have made the position of women more vulnerable.

It is time that while we demand for legal reforms to remedy this malady, all of us, as responsible citizens; we put our minds, hearts and hands together to strive for changing mindsets of men and women and make this society a safe place to live in. We also need to take utmost care to ensure that such incidents do not deter our young women from enjoying the freedom that the constitution of this country promises. Over and above, it is necessary to take concerted steps so that women are able to take control of their lives and live fearlessly.

For achieving this, we, at Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, are taking small but sure efforts for empowering young women, who are exploring their way into this complex world, with fearless attitudes and positive beliefs; thus enabling them to make appropriate choices, decisions and take action. Through its Programme - "Empowerment of Girls to face Social Challenges of the 21st Century", that began in the year 2008 it aims at

- building self-esteem
- promoting communication and interpersonal relationship skills - with family, peers and others;
- developing insights into the changing value systems brought in by advanced technology and judicious use of such advancements
- building skills in analyzing messages given by the modern media
- enabling them to make appropriate choices, and take mature decisions and actions, within the given realities of life

The programme is conducted through three full-day workshops with women in the age group of 15 to 25 years and their parents. It is based on four broad themes: Self and Family; Friends and Peers; Media and Technology; and Marriage. Since 2008, the programme has reached 7,129 young women and their parents through 213 workshops conducted in 12 states of our country.

We invite you to connect with us, share with us your ideas and expectations, and join us in this challenging endeavor in whatever way you can.

**Prafulla Parakh,**  
CEO, BJS

## *Marching ahead with Mulyavardhan*

### January -

Training of Mulyavardhan Guides Batch -10 comprising of 80 guides has commenced at WERC Wagholi from 14 Jan 13 and will terminate on 30 Mar 13. This is a residential program and the guides will be imparted training for 75 days. The subjects that will be covered include classroom management, People & children management and about the subject Mulyavardhan for Standards 1 to 4.

### February -

1. A team from Cambridge University Dr David Whitebread & Dr Sanjana Mehta will be visiting Patoda & Ashti tehsils of Beed district to have a field survey of implementation of Mulyavardhan in the 500 Zilla Parishad Primary schools. They will also be interacting with the Mulyavardhan Content creation, Research, Training & Implementation staff at



**Dr. Brian Flay and Dr. Carol Allred visit on field**

the Head Office at Pune. The team is carrying out an Evaluation study of the program that is being implemented from the academic year 2009-10.

2. Commencing of Mulyavardhan Implementation for Standard 5 from the academic year 2013-14 is being planned. Planning and preparation for commencing this is in progress. This involves training of Trainers, finalization & printing of training material and Activity books for the students.

3. BJS National President Shri Shantilal Muttha will be conducting 17 meetings one in each Block in Patoda & Ashti tehsils. The meetings will be attended by the Principals & teachers of all the schools where

Mulyavardhan is being implemented & parents of all the students who are under going this training.

## *Gujarati Kelvani Kites Fly High*

Pottery making in one room and tailoring in another! Kids practicing judo on judo mats of international standards and a delightful activity room for toddlers of the pre primary to vent their hyper energy! Classrooms connected to each other like compartments in a train and an exclusive remedial centre for differently abled children handled by a dedicated team of child counselors. All of this and much more lay in store for our team of assessors when they went for the assessment and accreditation of two schools of Gujarati Kelvani Mandal at Matunga in Mumbai on 10th and 11 Jan, 2013. They were four schools housed in one building which was flanked by the busy Kidwai road on one hand and the railway line

on the other. Yes, there were many things going good for the schools which were evident in the way the schools were run by the Principal with an active support from the management mostly comprising the school alumni! It was a challenge to critically evaluate the schools in spite of the array of offerings that the schools presented to their students as well as parents.

Our next line up comprises the assessment and accreditation of two CBSE schools of Mr. Kapil Sibal's constituency in North Delhi from 21st to 24th Jan, 2013 using the BJS SAA model and also a report sharing presentation of Hiralal Jain School, Delhi which was assessed in Oct'12. From February we begin with the report sharing for the eight schools of Meghalaya as assessed in Oct'12.



**Pottery making class at Swadhyay Bhavan, Mumbai**



**Baal Sabha at IBH Bhatia School, Mumbai**



## ***The Match Point***

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana has been organizing Parichay Sammelans over last 20 years, with an aim to find the best alliances for the candidates for the purpose of marriage. Over last several years the office bearers have been organizing these Sammelans effectively in their respective states, taking care of their state specific requirements under the guidance of Shri. Shantilal Muttha. In January 2013 Parichay Sammelans were organized in Hubli, Nagpur, Indore, Kolhapur for different groups such as 'highly educated', NRI candidates and for 'general' category.

Since past few years, the BJS chapter of Nagpur has been organizing Parichay Sammelan in the month of January as a regular activity. Shri Rajneesh Jain, state executive committee member from Maharashtra & his team from Nagpur has been instrumental in conducting these Parichay Sammelans. On 13th January 2013, 115 female & 92 male runners were seen benefitting from the Parichay Sammelan organized for the 'highly educated' category.

Gaining from the first hand experience acquired after attending the second NRI Parichay Sammelan held by the Head office, Shri. Sandesh Jain, Vice president of Madhya Pradesh & his team skillfully

managed the NRI Parichay Sammelan on 13th January 2013 at Indore under the leadership of Shri. Prafulla Parakh. It received an enormous response from 115 participants.

Karnataka State President, Shri. Goutam Bafana organized the state's first Parichay Sammelan for 'general' category at Hubli on 6th January 2013 which received an overwhelming response from 143 candidates. Kolhapur had also organized its General Parichay Sammelan on 26th January 2013 under the guidance of Shri. Abhinandan Khot, Regional President of West Maharashtra in which more than 400 candidates participated.

• Ahead, in Feb. 2013, few other Parichay Sammelans are to be organized for groups such as 'highly educated', Jain divorcees, widows, widowers & physically challenged at Pune and Nashik. The details are as below: Nashik (MH)- 17th February 2013 for Highly Educated.

- Last date for submission - 10th February 2013  
Contact - Shri. Sunil Runwal (Ph:9822514885)
- Pune (MH)-24th February 2013 for Remarriage(Divorcees,Widows,Widowers &Physical Challenged)

**Last date for submission - 12th February 2013**  
**Contact - Shri. Shripal Lalwani (Ph: 9823977472)**



**Parichay Sammelan at Hubli**

## ***On AIR with Shri. Shantilal Muttha***

The Silver Jubilee National Convention saw the biography of Mr. Shantilal Muttha being released in Marathi. Its audio version will be broadcast on FM 101 MHz on All India Radio (Pune Kendra) every Tuesday at 10.20 am; so tune in and listen to this inspirational story!

## ***A Doctor's Gift***

BJS has been conducting FREE Plastic Surgery Camps for the needy and underprivileged children all over the country (including Pune) for over 20 years. These camps provide an opportunity for poor and destitute children to correct the facial deformities and overcome inferiority complex and depression. This surgery at an early age helps them in future to find a suitable life partner for themselves in their adulthood thereby giving them an opportunity to lead a normal life.

## ***The Minority Benefits***

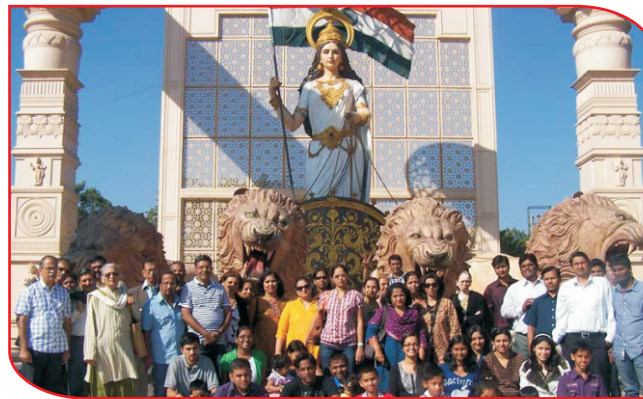
An awareness workshop citing the benefits of being a Minority community at a personal as well as institutional level will be conducted at Koppal, Karnataka on 24th Feb. 2013. Shri. Sudarshan Jain, National Secretary, BJS will be the resource person.

Late Dr. Sharad Kumar Dicksheet, a renowned Plastic Surgeon, from USA, had been conducting these camps at approx 40 locations each year over a period of six months. The surgery camps had to be reduced to two locations in 2011, due to his sudden demise, after which this noble work is being continued through the support of Dr Weinstein and his team.

This year too these FREE Plastic Surgery Camps were organized by BJS at Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Nanded and Pune in the months of Dec 2012 and Jan 2013.

# Some Fun at BJS HO: Staff Picnic:

After a hectic 2012, the BJS HO staff had a superb break. On Jan 12, 2013, the BJS HO Staff was at the breathtaking Aamby Valley for the picnic. The day was beautiful and the weather, well, it was perfect. Our National President opened the doors of his beautiful home at Aamby Valley to a busload and more, of staff members. The fun began in the bus: we sang our way, all the way. We were greeted, on arrival, with a grand breakfast spread. A tour of the home was exciting, especially the home theatre room. Given an option everyone could have spent the rest of the day there! Soon after we drove a r o u n d the beautiful hills and vales, the rivers and lakes, awed by the sights of grand 'Bharat Mata' monument, gazed at some



Staff picnic @ Aamby Valley

magnificent homes, the ghat, the huge, awesome swings and the brilliant flowers all around. The lunch that followed was delicious and huge. The boat ride on the expansive, tranquil, man-made lake was super. Though the fun and games had begun soon after breakfast, we all got together in the large basement of the residence in the afternoon for three hours of pure fun. The childlike enthusiasm and spirit of participation of the National President and the CEO was incredibly infectious. After a super high tea, we topped the day watching a spectacular musical laser lights and water fountain show. Was anyone tired? Not one. There couldn't have been a more wonderful, fun filled picnic! Nor could one have asked for more!

## Connect with BJS!

We would love to hear from you...  
We look forward to your views, opinions, any ideas, suggestions, complaints, compliments, something new, anything nice.....  
Talk to us through email / facebook.

## Volunteer

with your time, skills and talent at BJS. Look in at our website [www.bjsindia.org](http://www.bjsindia.org) to know what we do.  
If you feel inclined, get in touch and do contact us.  
We would certainly welcome and appreciate your talent and time.  
We would love to have you with us.

### BJS on Facebook

Connect with BJS !!



To connect <http://www.facebook.com/BJSPune>

Join By clicking the 'Like' button;  
Give comments on Status Updated, participate in Discussions, Contribute your Views, Share Photo / Video / News of events.

Send feedback, ask your friends / relatives to join BJS - Facebook Community Page.

### Jain Minority

Did you know??

That :

The respective State Commissions for Minorities, announce scholarships for students from Minority Communities about this time of the year.

Therefore,

All Jain students are advised to lookup the websites of their respective State Commission for Minorities for announcements.

Ensure:

That your school leaving certificate carries 'Religion-Jain' !!! or you have an affidavit stating the same.

**national concern**

focusing on selected domains that contribute to nation-building

**social sensitivity**

researching in-depth issues to address needs across the society

**developmental innovation**

strategizing novel ideas to align development within established frameworks

**participatory process**

enthusing all stakeholders for involved implementations

**sustainable solutions**

implementing workable, scalable and replicable models

**meaningful impact**

touching millions through our work!!!