

Empowering Today Enriching Tomorrow

From the desk of the CEO



Shri. Prafulla Parakh

Dear Friends,

It was time to rejoice as the much awaited pre-monsoon showers lashed onto its parched lands and dry lakes, in the worst drought-hit region of Beed in Marathwada, in early June 2013.

Hopes of its lakhs of people for a better tomorrow, and of the

passionate volunteers of Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) had been raised because of the relentless drought relief operations that they had undertaken.

A seemingly impossible task of desilting 115 silt-packed lakes and tanks in five talukas - Patoda, Ashti, Shirur, Beed and Gevrai of Beed district was accomplished in a month's time through the vigorous campaign 'Revival of lakes' that began in May 2013. 100 JCB and 35 Poclair excavators worked simultaneously, and in multiple shifts, under technical surveillance of experts and engineers, and cooperation of government officials and local elected representatives. 20 lakh cu. meters of silt was excavated, making way for an equal amount of additional water storage. Enhanced water seepage is expected to recharge ground water (wells). Villagers employed tractors and trucks at their own cost for carrying the silt from the site to their fields. In all, about 2500 hectare of land received the nutrient-filled silt. It would enrich their land, make parts of its rocky terrain cultivable, and there would be more work, they hope. In the light of the pressing need for desilting, for the first time the government had waived royalty charged on the silt.

It was THE opportunity to convert the crisis into a growth opportunity! Greater work opportunity would

stop the landless population that labour as sugarcane-cutters, from migrating, thus ensuring continuity of school education for children. A better educated next generation would help in progress of the backward Beed district. Desilting operations indeed had the potential of enhancing the quality of life of people! It would change the face of the region! It was this dream that drove Shri Shantilal Muttha Founder and National President of BJS shift residence to Beed for a month, to personally direct and monitor all operations.

All humanly possible efforts had been collectively undertaken, and on June 5, 2013 - World Environment Day, people prayed to the 'rain god' for good rains. An evaluation that is to be conducted after the kharif season would test its impact and provide lessons for future developmental planning of the district.

Addressing the pressing need of the region, BJS' also established and managed 28 cattle camps with great care and precision, under the guidance of several experienced experts, in seven districts - Beed, Osmanabad, Jalna, Aurangabad, Latur, Solapur, and Pune. The camps catered to 10,000 cattle for nearly four months; beginning March 2013.

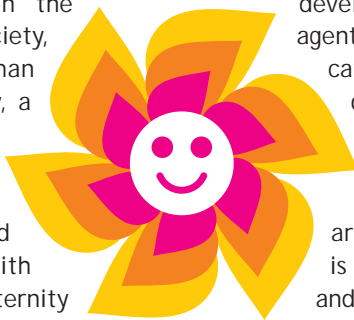
With a deep sense of gratitude for having got this opportunity to service drought-ridden communities, BJS' concluded its operations on June 11, 2013. Shri Muttha now envisions a collective platform - an alliance: 'Beed Zilla Vikas Parishad' of people of Beed district, from various backgrounds and expertise, for preparing workable plans for the development of the district; and promises to support it if people agree.

Do share your ideas, join us and call on us for any information.



Values Education: The Need of The Hour...

The other day President Pranab Mukerjee was speaking as the Chief guest on the occasion of the 10th Convocation of Tripura University. He made a fervent plea for value based education to fight against social crimes like atrocities on women. He is not the first one to make such an appeal. There are a lot of public intellectuals and educationists who have been promoting the cause of moral values education before and after the independence. Very eminent people like Vivekanand, Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and J Krishnamurthy always thought that all education was value based. Their primary concern was the falling standards of societal behaviour. The incidents of crime, violence and aggression are on the rise. Media, a social mirror reflects this and statistics with the government proves this. For the Indian society, which is considered the cradle of human civilization, this trend is very disturbing. How, a country which aspires to be a superpower, can achieve this slot with an ailing society? The value deficit is a big hurdle and needs some fundamental course correction. We need to build the strong foundation of this nation with fundamental values like liberty, equality, fraternity and justice. Only a peaceful nation can chart its march ahead. Gross domestic product and per capita income are not the decisive factors in this development process. We have to incorporate other parameters to measure our true progress. The human development index is a key term being used of late, to know, whether we are on the right track of progress. It is the quality of human beings that matter, not the volume. Here we have to move our focus from society to individual citizens. Citizens are the building blocks of society. And what is the true value of a citizen? It is the set of values in action. Values are principles, fundamental convictions, ideals and standards which act as general guides to behavior. Behaviour



is viewed as an indicator of an individual's values, Values, like love, compassion, co-operation, honesty, justice, loyalty, tolerance, sensitivity are meaningful attributes of a good human being. They are universally accepted humanistic values. A citizen who has nurtured these values right from childhood enables him to encounter the world better. It enables him to make choices, judgments and decisions more intelligently and critically. He realizes his true potential by living these values and becomes a responsible citizen whose level of acceptance in the new modern world. Now where does one acquire these values which are the survival kit of today's competitive world? The obvious answer is home and school. Schools play a very critical role in personal and social development of students. Teachers are the change agents. They are the gatekeepers. They act as catalysts in the social and emotional development of the children. But unfortunately, the educational system is driven by the market forces today. It has become utilitarian. The focus is on academic and economic goals. We are facing a crisis in education. The present system is producing students who are the future citizens and are devoid of many of the non-intellectual aspects with excessive focus on their employability in the job market. It achieves academic and economic goals, but in the process destroys the souls of the children. The true spirit of education should be to enhance character. It should aim to broaden the potential of the individual holistically to create a human being who is balanced and harmonized intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. With this goal in mind, BJS is in value education with a program called Mulyavardhan. We believe values are paramount as the overarching solution to many of the world's present problems. If one may summarize this in one sentence, it would be, "There is no education without values."

Make Learning Real and Fun....says Kanchan.

This was the message which underlined the incredible workshop that was conducted by Mrs. Kanchan Deshpande at BJS on 24th June'13. Kanchan who is an educator with years of experience is also a writer and an academic with a national and international exposure that has contributed immensely to her out-of-the-box creative thinking. The workshop was attended by a motley crowd of BJS employees working in the sphere of school education. So while few were teacher trainers, others were either content developers or were into school assessment and accreditation. Kanchan ensured that every single person had plenty to take away



from her value added session which gave an insight into 'authentic' and creative teaching and ways of professional development for teachers. The workshop was peppered with activities that were as zany as they were thought provoking. In the process she left her audience with several effective pedagogic strategies and ideas for making teaching-learning fun and relevant. The session ended with a candid discussion wherein Mr. Prafulla Parakh, CEO, BJS too shared his views on gender biases. It was felt that this stereotyping was still evident in the school curriculum which was actually a spin off of the Indian society and conscious efforts needed to be taken to abet it.

Minority Status: Out of the blue.....

The Jain community is a community small in numbers, being less than 1% of the total population of India. The government of India, under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 missed out the community in the notified list of Minorities. However, since the States of India have the prerogative to grant minority status, some states have declared Jains as a Minority community. In Dec 2002, the state of Chhattisgarh notified the Jain Community as a Minority community.

On May 31, 2013, the state Government of Chhattisgarh de-notified the Jain Community as a minority, causing much dismay. This sudden de-notification was a bolt from the blue and the community in the state was extremely aggrieved and pained.

A delegation led by BJS Chhattisgarh along with other Jain organizations in the State had approached the CM Shri Raman Singh who met them at his residence on June 21, 2013. Under the leadership of Shri M C Jain, Smt Shobha Jain, Shri B R Jain, Shri Dharamchand Lunia, Shri Jitendra Golchha and many eminent persons from the community presented the CM with their grievance. The CM was very receptive, understanding and empathized with the sense of loss the delegation expressed. He announced that the state government will bring out an ordinance in the monsoon session of the state assembly. After the ordinance is



passed by the cabinet, it will be tabled in the Vidhan Sabha for approval. Once approved, the minority status of the Jain community will be restored. He explained to the delegation that it was not the intention of the State Government to revoke the recognition. This happened because the earlier notification that was issued was not as per the laid down procedure due to which some legal complications had arisen. The State Government was therefore compelled to withdraw the notification. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Sushil Kumar, assured that the ordinance will be prepared. Senior officials such as Shri Aman Kumar Singh, Secretary and Shri M S Paraste, Commissioner for Development of Minorities and other Notified Communities were present. Shri Rajesh Munot, Minister for Housing and Environment, Chhattisgarh State, who was also present thanked the CM for his audience, on behalf of the delegation.

Unlike large communities, that find strength and comfort in their numbers, small communities look for some handholding. If this comes from the government, it is reassuring. The CM has kept his promise. The plea was placed before the state cabinet immediately, which it has passed. This will now be tabled in the monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha on July 15. Once the ordinance is ratified, the Jain Community will have the minority status in the state accorded to it for perpetuity.

'Empowerment of Girls' To Face the Social Challenges of the 21st Century The clarion Call to all

The continuous and fast depleting standards of our once "Value Based" Indian Society coupled with the rising graph of atrocities against women is severely damaging our already sensitive social fabric. The gruesome incident of December 2012 shook the entire world. Even then, every day the newspapers carry more than one such incident, even the minors are not spared. Laws are made, but they are proving ineffective. How can we reverse this trend? When can our female society feel free and move fearlessly, confidently with equality and in step with our male counterparts as guaranteed in our constitution? Well meaning social groups and individual social crusaders are alive to this spreading disease and are working on various aspects to stem the rot through a participatory process. A lot of work in this area is being done. BJS, under the leadership of the National President, BJS and Shri N P Jain, having taken note of these declining morals well before "The Incident" has been conducting a workshop "Empowerment of Girls" - to face the social challenges of 21st Century for the last 6 years and empowered more than 3500 young girls with amazing feedbacks.

The Rajasthan Association of Tamil Nadu assessed its potential and signed an MOU this year with BJS to run the workshop for its colleges in Tamil Nadu. This "three day workshop" was run in four colleges this January.

On 26th May 2013, at Rajkot, Shri Prafulla Parakh, National General Secretary of BJS addressed a large gathering of Jain Social Group (JSG) represented by senior office bearers and members and the Board of International Directors. He spoke to them on the ills of the society, the need of the time to rise against this and how BJS is contributing toward it. The meeting was blessed by Swamiji, who mentioned that never before has he been so deeply touched emphasized that these issues of the society be tackled fast paced. The Jain Social Group, having understood the dangers of the time is in the process of incorporating this aspect in their vision document for 2020 and to take this program across the country as their signature program.

Similarly, the Rotary Club of Indore was addressed on similar lines last year by Shri Mahesh Kothari, National Secretary of BJS, they too have appreciated this is an urgent need of the society to be tackled urgently.

The crusade is on, Social organizations are now swinging into action. BJS has upped its attack on this virus. Well meaning social organizations and individuals are welcome to join hands. Together we shall march ahead for the better of our Nation.



Some Upcomming Events

1. **Empowerment of Girls Program (EOG)**
 - a. MP- Sarangpur- 5-6-7 July 2013
Contact- Shri. Manish Shrimal 9425071637
Trainer- Smt. Kusum Pandya, Indore
 - b. MP- Ganjbasoda- 19-20-21 July 2013
Contact- Shri. Pradeep Jain 9425437679
Trainer- Shri. Sanjay Singhi, Raipur
 - c. MP- Seoni - 25-26-27 July 2013
Contact- Shri. Sanjay Maloo, 9425174529
Trainer- Shri. Nitin Pohre, Nagpur &
Smt. Manish Jain, Chhindwara
2. **Empowerment of Couples Program (EOC)**
 - a. MP- Ganjbasoda- 20-21 July 2013
Contact- Shri. Pradeep Jain 9425437679
Trainer- Smt. Neetu Jain, Khandwa
3. **State Executive Committee Meeting**
MP- 28 July 2013- Indore Joint Meeting with
Mahila State Karyakarini
Contact- Shri. Rakesh Jain & Smt. Sasha Jain
4. **Parichay Sammelan**
 - a. Highly Educated Parichay Sammelan
Kumhari, Dist- Durg, Chhattisgarh - **25th August 2013**
Contact - Shri. Pannalal Parakh- 98268 15768
Conduct by- Shri. Prafulla Parakh
 - b. Parichay Sammelan for General Category
Igatpuri, Dist- Nashik, Maharashtra -**25th August 2013**
Contact - Shri. Puranchand Lunavat- 94222 55916
Conduct by-Shri. Hemraj Khabia

Connect with BJS!

BJS on YouTube



There are a number of must-watch videos on BJS on the YouTube. Use the link below to access them

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BJSIndiaChannel>

Jain Minority

We have been receiving many queries and we welcome them. Keep writing .Give us your feedback on how our response to them helped resolve your issue.

Schools managed by Minority trusts can select a head master/mistress of their choice and are not bound to select on the basis of seniority only.

To get a Minority Status for your institute follow the guidelines given at the website:
<http://ncmei.gov.in/>

The highlights of BJS processes

national concern <small>focusing on selected domains that contribute to nation-building</small>	social sensitivity <small>researching in-depth issues to address needs across the society</small>	developmental innovation <small>strategizing novel ideas to align development within established frameworks</small>	participatory process <small>enthusing all stakeholders for involved implementations</small>	sustainable solutions <small>implementing workable, scalable and replicable models</small>	meaningful impact <small>touching millions through our work!!!</small>
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