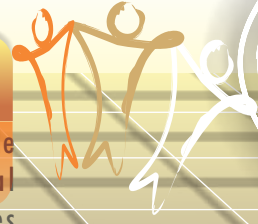


# reflection

When your social contribution is vital, there will always be people to carry it forward and the expanding revolution of social development will make you shine forever in a million smiles



Friends,

We have come into the seventh month of 2015 and half of the year has gone by.

This definitely calls for some analysis and reflecting on what we have done for the society so far and how has it impacted the lives of people of different age-groups.

Many of our novel initiatives and revised programs were launched this year and they have been accepted well by the society. The Minority and Marriage Lecture Series have been successful in spreading awareness and taking the new approaches to marriage fixing to the end members of society.

Recently we reviewed & redesigned the idea of 'Matrimonial Get-together' under the guidance of Shri Shantilalji Muttha in which we have implemented the suggestions for alternative ways of marriage fixing. The concept is expected to be well received by the candidates and parents and we are already receiving an overwhelming response indicating that the society is now geared up to accept the unique approaches and changes in its quest to ensure happiness and harmony in relations.

Another unique initiative was the iBuD program launched this year with great success. iBuD along with BDP programs comprise our efforts to empower the entrepreneurs and provide them with the much-needed exposure to move to the next level, and change the lives of participants to a great extent, bring success in their ventures and open new doors for them.

The existing bouquet of programs are marching at a fast pace towards empowering girls and women, spreading awareness on Minority, bringing peace and love in relationships, guiding students to make right career choices and rehabilitating several lives devastated by natural calamities.

With new initiatives and expansion BJS is incessantly spreading wings across the country and now internationally too. I attended the JAINA Convention in Atlanta (US) in July as a guest and speaker. It was a great opportunity to interact with leaders of JAIN organizations from across the globe. I also addressed the community meetings over there and initiated talks about joint projects with JAINA and other related organizations for welfare of students and promoting entrepreneurship. We have started giving shape to several new projects that will make BJS more widely known and also provide us with a chance to spread happiness globally.

Revision, reinvention and regeneration of existing systems are essential elements that contribute to harmonious growth of any society during various transformations. Across ages there have been people who took up the responsibility of revolutionizing the human societies with their experience, research and thought processes.

BJS Founder Shri Shantilal Muttha had the vision to identify various ills affecting internal peace and harmony at socio-cultural & domestic levels, and formulated various novel yet implementable solutions to these. His progressive solutions have simplified various complexities prevalent in our social systems & practices, leading to balance & harmony in relations. It is widely known that BJS has been a pioneer in conducting matrimonial meets, marriage counseling and mass marriages as social reforms. Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) has been working as an agent of change in the society for decades now.

'Marriage'- has been a subject that affects the social harmony and existence of society directly. BJS largely contributed to eradication of financial burden on girls' parents by introducing mass marriage concept. This concept was later adopted



**"Shri Shantilalji Muttha has always devised solutions that were ahead of times and went a far way in eradicating societal issues; be it through the Matrimonial Meets, Mass Marriages, EoC or the alternative ways of marriage fixing to ensure fulfillment of the aspirations of youth. BJS has continually revised and churned out solutions to ensure peace and happiness in the society."**

by various other communities and organizations for social welfare and peaceful co-existence.

BJS identified that the youth today have a different set of expectations of marriage as compared to their parents and elders. Shri Muttha devised 'Alternative ways of marriage fixing' to deal with the arising complexities. In a move to take this concept in its true sense to the society, BJS National President Shri Prafulla Parakh imparted training to the office bearers who held 'Lectures on Marriage' at various places in different states.

These lectures targeted at making the people aware

of the actual problems that cause glitches in fixing up of marriage and hindrance in way of happy marriages & conjugal bliss. The aim is to bridge the gap between the thought processes of parents and children and establish a path acceptable to both the generations. This approach allows the youth to initiate selection of life partner under the guidance of their parents. The final decision must be based on the mutual selections made by elders and the candidates both thus taking the first step towards peaceful and happy marriages leading to happy societies.

Moving ahead on these lines, BJS is organizing a 'Matrimonial get-together' in August that will provide the boys and girls with an opportunity to meet, interact and select their prospective life partners. This meet will be different from the regular 'Parichay Sammelan' concept for the unique feature that only candidates will be allowed to participate in the program. This novel initiative will provide the youth with an opportunity to identify suitable life partners who match their aspirations.. A variety of activities will be hosted during the meet to help the boys and girls understand

Marriage  
Counseling

Lectures  
on  
Marriage

each other better and become aware of the behavior, qualities, talents and thought processes of other candidates. It will also become easier for parents to make final selection from the prospective candidates identified by their son/daughter during the matrimonial get-to-gather.

Empowerment of Couples (EoC) program has been a platform for couples to understand each other better and rejuvenate their relationship. This program concentrates on making the partners aware of each other's choices, likes, dislikes and aspirations. Engaging activities, questionnaires and various other interesting methods are used during this two-day program to empower the couples and boost compatibility, understanding and mutual love and respect among them for happy marriages.

With constant research of the societal set-up and altering aspirations of different age-groups BJS, influenced & guided by the vision of Mr Muttha, has been devising solutions that ensure happiness and harmony in marital relationships, thus contributing towards development and peaceful existence of the society.

# THE BJS ENSEMBLE OF PROGRAMS

## AT A GLANCE

MINORITY  
EoG  
SAP  
CAREER GUIDANCE  
PLASTIC SURGERY CAMPS



**Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) has always formulated solutions that have simultaneously worked for education, society, women, health, career and minority and have contributed to social development in numerous ways.**

### Empowerment of Girls:

This three-day workshop successfully conducted in Jain Community from 2008 has empowered more than 20,000 girls. With the increasing popularity and acceptance of these workshops BJS has decided to conduct it for other communities through tie-ups with schools and educational institutions. Till date more than 100 MOU signed with different schools and 500 workshops have been conducted under the same.

### Plastic Surgery Camp:

Free plastic surgery camps are conducted in the months of December and January every year. This camp is conducted at Sancheti Hospital in Pune around 7th January every year.

Dr. Sharadkumar Dicksheet started conducting this free plastic surgery camp in India

from 1968 to revive life of suffering from **Cleft Lip, Squint eyes, Ptoisis, Nose Deformity, Facial Scar** patients. In 1992, BJS started organizing camps all over Maharashtra and expanded in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. More than 2.6 lakh patients underwent surgery and were cured through his camps.

After Dr. Diksheets's sad demise in 2011, his team members Dr. Raj Lala, Dr. Vijay Mordiya, Dr Larry Weinstein and Dr. Parag Sancheti decided to carry this noble mission forward. Shri Shantilal ji Muttha motivated this team to conduct these camps in India. During past four years, BJS has widened the reach of these camps with the help of Lions club, Rotary club and the local BJS Office bearers to conduct them outside Pune too and in the coming year the organization expects that Plastic Surgery camps will be held at more than 12 locations.

### Career Guidance:

The competitive era has pushed the school students into a preparatory at young ages. They start focusing toward career building from class XIII. This preparation and hard

work needs to be channelized in the right direction and with firm goals to ensure success. Students and parents must be aware of the diverse higher education options available after class X and XII.

The BJS Career Guidance Program is the appropriate medium to provide the parents and students with ample and useful information of latest courses, higher education options, methods of application and preparation required for various entrance tests. It is two hour session conducted by trained resource persons with the help of state, district or local BJS office bearers. Since 2005 more than 50000 students across eight different states have benefitted from this program.

### Student Assessment Program:

The current world of technological advancement is fast and places heavy demands on the intellectual ability and emotional stability of human beings. Children being our only and true assets, it is imperative to gauge their strengths and weaknesses at an early age and need to guide them towards their improvement and enhance their skills at all levels.

Student assessment test for class four is available on [www.bjssap.org](http://www.bjssap.org). Parents or teachers can assist the student to give the test. It is multidimensional test, the test measures emotional, social, physical and intellectual growth of the student. More details about the test have been provided on the link. The test is divided in different sessions and student can able to give it in one or more attempt. At the end of the test the students receive a printed report so that they can analyze and improve their skills.

### Minority:

BJS has published six books on Minority in Hindi and English related to benefits for Business, Students, Educational Institutions, Women,



Religious Establishments and NGO. Apart from this, 'Lectures on Minority for Community Awareness' are being extensively organized by BJS to take the Minority Benefits under different categories to each and every Jain household.

Since January 2015, 53 trainers from 7 states have delivered more than 100 awareness sessions all over India; mainly in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, some part of North East Region and Gujarat. At BJS Minority helpdesk [helpminority@bjsindia.org](mailto:helpminority@bjsindia.org) is functional to solve the queries of the community members regarding Minority laws, updates and amendments. The organization also sends across all useful information through Whatsapp to the registered community members on a regular basis.

**Being a forerunner in identifying and solving the societal problems, BJS has with its unique methodologies, devised a set of training programs and tours that equip the existing and new entrepreneurs with essential skills and required exposure to establish new businesses and expand the old ones.**



## **Business Development Program (BDP):**

This program has been formulated to update the existing entrepreneurs and people running traditional businesses with the current trends and approaches in the global market. Addressed by Business gurus like Shri Rakesh Jain, Shri Chakor Gandhi and many others these seminars promote growth, sustainability, high profits and fewer pitfalls thereby boosting the overall organizational performance. More than 40 BDPs have been conducted so far under the BJS banner.

## **Igniting Business Development (iBuD):**

The iBuD exposure tour has been conceptualized for the young and budding entrepreneurs and also those who want to convert their existing businesses to smart enterprises. The 7-day Business Exposure Tour-iBuD (Igniting Business Development) of BJS was conducted across seven cities namely Pune, Mumbai, Jalgaon, Ahmedabad, Indore, Bangalore and Chennai in April, 2015. The 50 iBuD participants visited the premier institutes and also interacted with top entrepreneurs and renowned academicians during the tour. BJS National President Shri

Prafulla Parakh was the chief mentor for the tour.

The participant feedback for iBuD was prodigious and they named it as a Life Changing Experience. After the tour the iBuD fellows have been able to establish a business and knowledge sharing network of their own and many of them have also come up with innovative business ideas and expansion ideas for their traditional enterprises.

In words of Janvi (an iBuD fellow)-"The seven-day iBuD tour was very impactful and it gave me unmatched positive energy and motivation to embark on a new journey in the entrepreneurial world. Having studied Retail Design, I shared my art works with others and had 5-6 freelance projects in my kitty before the tour even ended. I have my own business network and new projects and it feels wonderful".

**The second iBuD tour will take the participants across six cities in six days and it will be conducted from September 28-October 3, 2015. The event will flag off from Chennai and the closing ceremony will be held in Pune.**

BJS Youth Cell also organizes seminars on Business by eminent speakers and business gurus periodically to apprise the young members of the latest business techniques and

motivate them to alleviate the socio-economic status of the nation by diving into entrepreneurship and generating employment for hundreds of other youth too.

**Based on the three decade experience, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) decided to "SPREAD THE WINGS" approach under which the organization will work in collaboration with other social service organizations and join hands with various educational institutes to spread awareness about their bouquet of solutions to social issues.**

In the primary phase BJS got in touch with various organizations in Indian and abroad along with the state governments. Apart from this BJS National President Shri Prafulla Parakh recently attended the JAINA Convention as a guest and speaker. BJS is now geared up to work in collaboration with International Jain organizations too for better and wider community development.





# BJS NATIONAL PRESIDENT AT JAINA CONVENTION IN US



Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) is United States' biggest Jain Organization having strong connections with Jain leaders across the globe. Every year Jain leaders and representatives from various countries are invited to JAINA Convention which is a prestigious platform for community based information sharing, discussions and exposure.

The BJS connection with JAINA dates back to year 1993, when they had extended support to the organization for relief activities during Latur earthquake. Since then it has been a great association and our Founder and the then National President of BJS Shri Shantilalji Muttha has been invited to the JAINA convention several times. Shri Muttha has addressed the global community through this platform at several occasions. In 1994 Shri Muttha toured 25 locations in the US and conducted community meetings among the local Jains over there.

After taking over as BJS National President in 2014, Shri Prafulla Parakh recently attended the JAINA Convention 2015 as a guest and speaker from July 2-5, 2015. He addressed a session in Jain Diaspora Track 2 on July 4 at

Atlanta. The topic of his lecture was "Changing Community Profile, the Concerns of Jain Youth in Contemporary Era and their Future". Shri Parakh also addressed the question and answer session on the topic. Dr Manish Mehta was the convener of this event.

Another significant event in the Convention was the BJS-JITO-JAINA Cultural Youth Exchange Program. The program was attended by 12 Jain youths from India who also delivered a presentation in the convention. Shri Parakh delivered his address at the end of their presentation, and later also interacted with these youth. Shri Hemantbhai Shah of Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) facilitated this program.

Shri Parakh interacted with Prof. Dileep Jain of Kellogg University, newly elected JAINA President, Ashokbhai Domadia from San Francisco. Shri Parakh personally interacted with the Jain Diaspora speakers/attendees from India, UK, Antwerp, Belgium, Germany, Kenya, Singapore, Australia and JAINA US at Jain Diaspora.

Through this forum, the leaders and representatives from different

countries shared information on history, development, activities, concerns and initiatives of Jain communities residing in different parts of the world. This was an excellent platform for networking and portraying the picture of Indian Jain Community through BJS and its initiatives.

To quote the words of Shri Parakh, "I wish these ties go a long way in working for development of our community. I also wish to invite the Jain leaders from across the globe to the next BJS National Convention. We would also work towards mapping opportunities for the senior BJS office bearers, so that they attend the JAINA Convention and gain an understanding of the communities' expectations and concerns all over the world. This would be a golden opportunity for them to network and build connections with like-minded community persons from diverse nationalities."





## COMMUNITY MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY SHRI PRAFULLA PARAKH IN USA

Shri Prafulla Parakh addressed Jain Community Meetings in New York, New Jersey and Washington DC on July 25 & 26, 2015. Shri Parakh was in US for the JAINA Convention 2015 in the month of July.

He apprised the community members about BJS and its vast history, track record & achievements in the social service domain. Shri Nitin Ajmera, Shri B C Jain and Dr Sushil Jain were the conveners of the meetings at New York, New Jersey and Washington DC respectively.

After the lectures, discussions on possibilities of networking and initiating joint projects with JAINA were also held and the preliminary talks on this have also been held during Shri Parakh's US tour.

Further developments and progress / decisions on this possibility of joint projects will be shared in the coming issues.



## BJS-JITO-JAINA CULTURAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The BJS-JITO-JAINA Cultural Youth Exchange Program was another significant event in the JAINA Convention at Atlanta (US). The event was attended by 12 Jain youth from India who also delivered a presentation in the convention. Shri Parakh delivered a speech at the end of their presentation and later also interacted with these youth. Hemantbhai Shah of JITO facilitated the program.

Rhea Rituraj Mehta (Ahmedabad), Viral Prakash Shah (Ahmedabad), Surbhi Sukesh Shah (Ahmedabad), Sakshi Kushal Bhansali (Ahmedabad), Anushree Himanshu Shah (Ahmedabad), Priyanshi Jain (Vijaywada), Sambhav Hitesh Shah (Mysore), Bhagyashree Satish Muttha (Aurangabad), Laukik Abhay Tated (Nashik), Raj Kataria (Rajasthan), Karnav Jigar Shah (Ahmedabad) and Savan Shah (Ahmedabad) were the members of the youth team representing India at the Cultural Exchange Program.

They visited NY, Washington, Atlanta and San Francisco cities of the US. There were three host families which took the responsibility of stay, food, transportation etc. The students attended JAINA Convention from July 2-4, 2015.



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