

Empowering Today Enriching Tomorrow

National conference on strengthening Disaster Management.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Latur Earthquake.

From the desk of the CEO



Shri. Prafulla Parakh

Dear Friends,

Today, no one would like to dream of the Latur earthquake that struck Marathwada on September 30, 1993 at 3:56 in the morning, just before dawn, when the villagers were fast asleep.. It was one of the most destructive earthquakes in

Maharashtra that killed 8,000 people. This is the official figure. The unofficial estimate is much higher, in the range of 20,000 to 30,000. More than 50 villages were flattened, 30,000 houses collapsed, 16,000 people injured, 1,27,000 families affected and 15,000 livestock killed. This was indeed a killer earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale.

Many state agencies along with the armed forces and social organizations carried extensive rescue and relief operations. First aid, food, water, clothing, medical aid and shelters were provided to the affected people. The plight of the people in the affected districts of Latur and Osmanabad touched the hearts of millions of people in other parts of the country and aid, in terms of men, material and money started pouring in from all corners.

BJS was one of the leading organizations that reached the spot the very next day with hundreds of dedicated volunteers, lit with the spirit of compassion and engaged themselves with rescue and relief operations for the next few weeks. But BJS did not disappear from the scene and plunged itself into a long term rehabilitation of the orphaned children. It took a strategic decision to shift 1200 school going children to Pune, the base camp of BJS and cater to their educational needs for the next 10 years.

A school along with boarding facilities and a helping team of social workers, health professionals and child psychologists, was specially established for these children, in Pune, with the active support

of the state agencies. These orphaned children are now on their own, have realized their dreams and are leading a meaningful life as responsible citizens.

The Latur episode was a turning point for BJS. It was the first disaster BJS was involved in the disaster management operations and was at the forefront in virtually all the major disasters the nation has faced thereafter. Be it Gujarat or Kashmir earthquake, the Tsunami in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands or the floods in Bihar, BJS contributed substantially in rescue, relief and rehabilitation work. Its efforts were applauded by society and the state. From the earthquake in Marathwada, 20 years ago, to the severe drought in Marathwada this year, BJS has kept its promise and commitment to alleviate the sufferings of the people hit by natural disasters and calamities.

It is with this background that BJS decided to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Latur earthquake by organizing a National Conference in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, NDMA, in Pune on September 29 and 30, 2013. The idea is to make the people aware of disaster preparedness of the society and catalyze the authorities to fine tune their responses and policies in the changed circumstances. All the major players responsible for policy formulations and action programs will be part of this conference. Eminent speakers and experts will give us more insights into various areas of disaster operations. A live demonstration of rescue efforts would be a major attraction for the layman. For the past students of Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Center, WERC, it would be a great reunion to share the precious moments in their lives. Sorrow and happiness will encounter with each other and enrich the life further.

The agenda and the venue of the conference is being finalized and will be flashed on the BJS social media sites at the earliest. Keep in touch and mark the dates on your calendar.

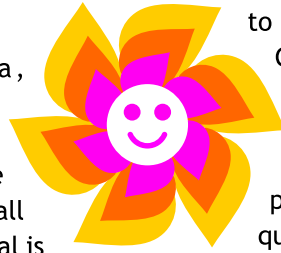


Presentation of Mulyavardhan Proposal for Goa to ABE Board Members

The Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE), Goa had invited Shri Prafulla Parakh, National General Secretary of Baharatiya Jain Sanghatana to address the ABE Board members and all Principals of ABE Educational institutes of Goa on 23 Jul 2013. The Arch Bishop of Goa & Daman Filipe Neri Ferrao was also present.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Manohar Parrikar during his budget speech for 2013-14 had expressed his desire to introduce Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana's Value Education and School Accreditation program for all schools in Goa. In the light of the same a proposal is being sent to the Government of Goa.

Since BJS and ABE have a long association since 2008 the ABE showed keen interest in the Value education program decided to send a team consisting of Fr. Zeferino D'Souza,



Secretary of the DSE, Fr. Alfred Vaz, DCC, Sr. Maria Christi, A.C., Fr. Paul Alvares, Ms. Vilma Henriques and Sr. Yvette Carvalho, Secretary of the ABE who visited the BJS on 11 & 12 March 2013. The program was well appreciated by them.

Since the proposal for Goa would also be applicable to all the ABE schools Shri Prafulla Parakh, National General Secretary of Baharatiya Jain Sanghatana decided to share the highlights of the proposal being sent to the Government of Goa and solicit views and suggestions on the same. After the presentation there were a large number of questions which holds testimony to the immense interest that the ABE has in both these programs.

The ABE fraternity are fully convinced with the need and fruitfulness of the program and BJS and ABE are likely to continue with their long cherished association.

Quality of School Education: Whether we have any role to play

Quality of school education is a perennial matter of concern like our monsoons and droughts. And every one of us - very rightly so - has an opinion on the quality of school education. Each one of us encounters the educational system, as a student, as a parent, as a teacher, as a trustee, as an administrator, or a government official. How each one of us perceives quality of school education, how we demand it, and how we participate in the process ensuring our demand are met plays a decisive role in what we and our children get in terms of quality education.

The common perceptions of quality of school education vary between good infrastructure, good facilities, good teachers, good board results, alumni success, so on and so forth. Recent studies and surveys show that parents choose private schools, private tuitions, or English medium schools on the basis of their understanding of quality education. Even those with meager financial resources opt for these options - best according to them - while compromising on some basic necessities of the family.

Every individual has material aspirations and the rising economic gap between different sections of population further enhances this desire for upward mobility. Every member of society looks up to education as a means to transform their family lives and providing decent standards of living. Learning English language and the choice of private schools supposedly offering good quality education have, however, not being able to ensure further access to higher education nor has it been able to offer employability. Yet the perception continues that quality education is offered by English medium and private schools.

Many of our children go to schools in very difficult conditions every day. Whether it is shelter, food, clothes, or physical access to school, children have to face basic

hurdles in day-to-day living to attend school. They need to perform better in school education for us to say that their scores are good enough for the kind of quality of education that we expect.

Barring few exceptions, a large number of our government schools and many private schools are yet to provide commonly acceptable level of infrastructure and facilities. Majority of the children in our country have access to such schools commonly perceived as schools with substandard infrastructure and facilities.

It is said that it is the teachers who are primarily responsible for the quality of education in schools. How many of us are teachers? How many of us want our children to opt for teaching as a profession? This disconnect between society and the teaching profession further results in a rift between society at large and school as an institution within society.

All of us resort to opinionated protests against the quality of school education as outsiders to the system. We compare how much money our government is spending on education versus some other country. We express our frustration with the education administration for ignoring basic accountability. We blame our curriculum designers and teacher educators for the gaps in expectations and reality. We curse our schools and teachers for our children not "learning." All of us can play a more decisive role for ensuring quality of school education.

For that to happen, it is necessary to confront our own assumptions about the role, we in our individual capacities, have played in defining today's educational system, to examine our own expectations from education, to confirm whether we want education to play a transformative role in the true sense. And that will be the beginning for us - society as a whole - in ensuring the quality of school education that our future generations will get.

BJS to Conduct Workshop for Teachers from the US

The Bharitya Jain Sangathana is all set to welcome a group of teachers from the United States of America who will be arriving to Pune for a three-day workshop organized for them by BJS from 6 to 8 August at its Head Office. These teachers are visiting India under the aegis of the International School for Jain Studies (ISJS) with the aim of familiarizing themselves with traditional Indian values and beliefs with the hope of finding solutions to major challenges that currently beset their school education system in the US. Violence, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, internet addiction and disregard for authority are prominent among them. These teachers are visiting India with the conviction that the principles of Ahimsa and peace as preached and practiced in India over the centuries will

provide some of the answers that they seek. The ISJS, headed by Dr. Shugan Jain, has been organizing such programmes for teachers from abroad.

BJS will be conducting the workshop for these teachers on topics such as 'Conflict Resolution', 'Violence in School and at Home', 'Discipline and Conflict Resolution', 'Critical Thinking', and 'Human Reality'. BJS will also be showcasing the manner in which these and other guiding principles and related approaches find application in its diverse programmes, especially in Mulyavardhan, its school-based programme for value education.

We look forward to welcoming these guests and sharing with them some of the insights and experiences that BJS has developed and gained over the years.

The Prestigious Tarun Kranti Puruskar for BJS!!!

It is to our great pride that BJS has been conferred with the Tarun Kranti Puraskar 2012 under the Organisational category for extraordinary work in the field of **nation building, family culture propagation and spreading of values across the world**. BJS National President, Shri Shantilal Mutha has been invited to receive the award and he will be at Jaipur on August 25, 2013. The award will be presented by the CM of Rajasthan, Shri Ashol Gehlot.

This is a prestigious national level award constituted with the auspicious blessing of Parampujya Krantikari

Rashtrasant Muni Shri Tarun Sagarji Maharaj. The award which constitutes of a cash prize and a citation is presented before an audience of eminent dignitaries from different parts of India. The award function may be watched on Astha channel as it happens and also on various other channels.

The Tarun Kranti Puraskar is a big honour for all of us, the karyakartas and the staff of BJS. For us, it brings with it, great glory along with it a sense of great responsibility too. We now must pursue our objectives with even greater vigour and zeal.

A time to rejoice!!!!

Chhattisgarh restores the Minority status of Jains in the state!

BJS leadership in Chhattisgarh and prominent Jains in the state had single-mindedly and tenaciously pursued for the restoration of the Minority status. The CM had been very receptive to the concern presented to him in June. He had promised to enable the restoration of the status at the earliest. True to his promise he called for the cabinet meeting and within the week the ordinance was passed. The next step was for the Vidhan Sabha to pass the same. This could be tabled only on July 15 when the Vidhan Sabha, after a break, met for the monsoon session. The Vidhan Sabha too passed the ordinance. The endorsement by the Governor was the last step. The Governor signed

the ordinance on July 31, 2013. The Jains in Chhattisgarh have the minority status, restored.

BJS commends the efforts of Shri Rajendra Kumar Parakh who, together with Shri M C Jain, Smt Shobha Jain, Shri B R Jain, Shri Dharamchand Lunia, Shri Jitendra Golchha and many of the karyakartas of BJS in Chhattisgarh, made the reinstating of the minority status possible within such a short period. The resolve was so strong and the cause was in complete focus, success had to follow. This noteworthy effort truly deserves the appreciation



and gratitude of the community. BJS extends its heartiest congratulations and sincere compliments on the accomplishment!



Some Upcomming Events for the month of August 2013

1. Empowerment of Girls Program (EOG)

- a. **MH- Jalna:** 9-11 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Dhanraj Jain 94222 15436
Trainer - Ms. Manisha Bhansali, Aurangabad
- b. **MH- Karad:** 9-11 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Ashok Bhandari 94238 26872
Trainer - Mr. Ratnakar Mahajan, Hingoli
- c. **KA- Sindhnnur:** 9-11 August 2013
Contact - Mr. Gautamchand Mehta 94483 63547
Trainer- Mr. Sanjay Kshirsagar, Arvi, Wardha
- d. **TN- Chennai:** 9-11 August 2013
Contact - Mr. Mahaveer Parmar 93810 00182
Trainer- Mr. Piyush Balai, Shimoga
- e. **MP- Damoh:** 9-11 August 2013
Contact - Ms. Kavia Bajaj 88787 80945
Trainer - Ms. Rajshree Chaudhari, Sagar
- f. **MH- Gondia:** 13-15 August 2013 &
16-18 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Dilip Chopda 98236 76684
Trainer - Mr. Mahesh Kothari, Gondia
& Mr. Dilip Chopda, Gondia
- g. **MP - Seoni:** August 2013
Contact- Mr. Sanjay Maloo 94251 74529
Trainer - Mr. Nitin Pohare, Nagpur
& Ms. Manisha Jain, Chindwara
- h. **KA - Hospet:** 16-18 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Dinesh Palrecha 94481 26217
Trainer - Dr. Sunil Bhutada, Pune
- i. **MH- Wagholi :** 22-24 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Gaikwad Sir 94232 21692
Trainer - Mr. Prafulla Parakh, Pune
- j. **TN- Chennai :** 23-25 August 2013 at 3 Locations
Contact - Mr. Mahaveer Parmar 93810 00182
- k. **Shajapur:** 29-31 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Ajay Jain 9826488870
Trainer - Kusum Pandya, Indore

2. Empowerment of Couples Program (EOC)

- a. **AP- Hyderabad:** 3-4 August 2013
Contact- Nilam Sethi 99124 73832,
Rakshita Bohra 9246 371884
& Seema Singhvi 98660 16049
Master Trainer- Mr. Rajendra Lunker, Erode
- b. **AP- Vishakapatnam:** 17-18 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Amar Jain 094403 19316
Mr. Ramesh Jain 98482 91966
Trainer- Mr. Dharmendra Chhajed, Bhilai
- c. **Chennai:** 24-25 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Mahaveer Parmar 93810 00182
Master Trainer- Mr. Rajendra Lunker, Erode
- d. **MP- Sujalpur Mandi** 25-26 August 2013
Contact- Mrs. Grishma Shah 9584301499
Trainer- Mrs. Neetu Jain, Khandwa

3. Parichay Sammelan

- a. Highly Educated Parichay Sammelan
Kumhari, Dist- Durg, Chhattisgarh
Contact- Mr. Pannalal Parakh 25 August 2013
MOC - Mr. Prafulla Parakh 98268 15768
- b. Parichay Sammelan for General Category
Igatpuri, Dist- Nashik, Maharashtra
Contact- Mr. Puranchand Lunavat 25 August 2013
MOC - Mr. Hemraj Khabia 94222 55916

4. State Conference -Rajya Adhiveshan

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----|----------|------|
| a. Punjab | Ludhiana | 20 | October | 2013 |
| b. Uttar Pradesh | Agra | 10 | November | 2013 |
| c. Maharashtra | Nashik | 30 | November | 2013 |
| d. Chhattisgarh | Raipur | 20 | December | 2013 |
| e. Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad | 21 | December | 2013 |
| f. Madhya Pradesh | Indore | 05 | January | 2014 |
| g. Tamil Nadu | Vaniambadi | 16 | January | 2014 |

5. State Tour

Uttar Pradesh 23 - 26th August 2013
by Mr. Mahesh Kothari, Mr. Manoj Jain & Mr. Sanjay Jain

6. Career Guidance Program

MP - Vidisha 09 August 2013
Contact- Mr. Nilesh Jain 98272 46554
& Ms. Anupama Jain 83499 17799
Resource Person Dr. Narendra Bhusari, Nagpur

Connect with BJS!

BJS on You Tube

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

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

The highlights of BJS processes

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!!!