



## Parivartan Yatra

At a glance

### From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

As I sit across my table, reading the mails, letters and messages from BJS office bearers, volunteers and noted persons from the community, a nostalgic feeling crosses my mind and fills me with a never-before energy and vigor. I am already missing being amidst the thousands of volunteers and people of all age-groups from the community. What a wonderful feeling it was!! The feeling to be able to reach out to thousands of people who were awaiting the BJS meetings, hoping that it could transform their social, academic, personal and professional lives.

**Parivartan Yatra –  
Nayi Peedhi, Nayi Soch has  
definitely etched its place  
in history**

Having completed the Parivartan Yatra “Nayi Peedhi Nayi Soch”- a journey of over 5 months, addressing 162 meetings covering 117 locations across 20 states and an audience of more than 40,000 - the experience is extremely difficult to put in words. Parivartan Yatra – Nayi Peedhi, Nayi Soch has definitely etched its place in history, which will be embedded in everyone's memory for decades to follow. It was a moment of joy,

realization and resolution; when Shri Shantilal ji Muttha passed on the BJS baton to me and I became the National President. Setting out on the 'Parivartan Yatra' was the foremost step towards shouldering this responsibility.

It was an honor to walk on the path of social welfare shown by Shri Muttha. A solid platform built with years of efforts for community development, stood firm beneath my feet wherever I went across the country. The volunteers, the whole BJS network and the people from the community open-heartedly welcomed our team and listened patiently about our programs, workshops and basket of solutions that we offer for real life situations. And, sometimes to my surprise, I found that there was not a single location where the community members did not relate to the social concerns identified by Shri Muttha. Be it north-east, Rajasthan or down south; the people were in complete agreement with the implementable solutions that we provide.

Each city, every gathering was a unique learning experience. While places like Kolhapur had an audience of 2,000; Hyderabad set the record with an audience number of 3,000. The way the women and tribals welcomed us by playing dhols at some locations, is worth a mention. The word of mouth about the Yatra was so strong, that the masses encouraged their family and friends in

adjoining cities to attend the Yatra. We were blessed enough to have Sadhus and Sadhvis grace the sabhas at various locations. The Sadhus and Sadhvis walked for hundreds of kilometers to grace and bless the sabha at Ajmer with their presence. It was humbling, motivating, encouraging and showed us a world that was more disciplined.

In each city, we held educational & social meetings spreading out awareness about our programs like Empowerment of Girls, Empowerment of Couples, SAP-online test for school children, Business Development Program, mass marriages, matrimonial meets and disaster management. After each gathering, there were hundreds of hands reaching out to join us in this noble mission towards building a humanitarian society with goodness, peace & progress for one & all. The Yatra also proved fruitful in terms of identifying a stronger volunteer base & new resource persons, who could become the messengers of social welfare for the community.

Without forgetting to thank my team, colleagues, new and existing volunteers and the people, I take pride in announcing that the 'Parivartan Yatra' has concluded successfully. But, my dear friends the journey of determination, dedication and action has just begun for all of us.

# Marching Ahead of Times

As the Parivartan Yatra has concluded and the work on problems identified during the tour has already begun, we bring here a trip down the memory lanes, highlighting the inspirational movement that began as the brainchild of Shri Shantilalji Muttha.

Together with a heart that pounded at the plight of disaster struck and sight of social evils, Shri Muttha also had the foresightedness and intellect to devise solutions to these social problems. The hardships of life had already made him observant and solicitous. With his unwavering spirit, he ventured into construction on business and simultaneously launched his social welfare initiatives. Bharatiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) was formed in 1985 out of his determination to build a society free of glitches, ignorance and disputes.

In an era (1986), when marriage expenses caused huge debt to the girls' parents, he introduced the concept of mass marriages, an initiative that was applauded all over the country, as a savior for people who could not afford lavish weddings. Shri Muttha undertook a 'padyatra' (1988-89) of 3000 km to delve deep into the actual social scenario in the state. It is only because of the extensive research he conducted by interacting with people even in remotest areas, that all his solutions are implementable and relevant even today.

Devoted to the community development, he started free plastic surgery camps in 1990 and more than 2.75 lakh people have benefitted from these camps. He organized a Peace March in 1992 in wake of the communal riots due to demolition of disputed Babri Masjid. In 1993, he constructed WERC in Pune for rehabilitation of 1200 orphaned children after Latur earthquake. It was in the same hostel that school children from Melghat (malnourished children), children from Jabalpur (earthquake 1997) and Kashmir (earthquake 2005) were accommodated during the calamities. He carried out exemplary work in the Andaman and Nicobar Island after Tsunami hit that area badly in 2005. Under the umbrella of BJS numerous schools and hospitals were reconstructed in Tsunami hit islands and also during earthquake in Gujarat.

Alongside disaster management, Shri Muttha also identified the core problems that are hampering the amity, contentment and prosperity in our community and society as a whole. He not only brought the issues of national and social concern to people's notice but also presented a whole basket of implementable solutions for every problem. He came out with Empowerment of Girls (EoG), Empowerment of Couples (EoC), Empowerment of Boys and many more such programs for social welfare. Apart from mass marriages, thousands of matrimonial meets have also been organized under the BJS banner.

The BJS-EDUQUIP is an assortment of programs like Students Assessment Program, Teachers Training

Program, School Accreditation Programs and Management Development Programs etc. Conceptualized by Shri Muttha, all these have been tested and implemented successfully in different regions of the country, over these years.

Tirelessly and passionately, Muttha Sir nurtured this seed of holistic community development and with his round the clock efforts the seed has now grown into a fruit-bearing tree that is benefitting the mankind. Today he has beside and behind him a strong network of volunteers, trainers and office bearers of BJS who get into action at a single call from Muttha Sir. The magnitude of his goodwill and popularity among the community cannot be penned in words. It is a wavelength that has spread across the nation and is resonating from every nook and corner to fulfill the vision of a single man for the benefit of a whole community.



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Being the noble personality Shri Shantilalji Muttha is; he stepped down from the position of BJS National President and passed on this responsibility to Shri Prafulla Parakh this year. As the Founder of BJS, Shri Muttha handed over his dream and his brainchild to Shri Parakh for the latter's unwavering commitment to the cause of this organization. With this, Shri Muttha created a line of succession, by identifying and encouraging the right person and lending direction and larger magnitude to his efforts.

More than 20 years with BJS were like being in a life institution. Starting off as an enthusiastic volunteer and being exposed to more and more realistic situations and problem areas with his growing capacities in the organization, Shri Parakh has now become the core member of this mission. From addressing gatherings, planning specific work areas, bringing forth the contemporary methodologies to supervising the reconstruction work in the unsupportive climate and infrastructure of Andaman and Nicobar, he has come a long way spreading the message of community development.

Addressing huge gatherings, empowering girls, youth and couples, resolving family issues with sensitivity and being available in any case of disaster or emergency; has now become the food for his soul. His consistent efforts towards social development and his approach to bring the BJS programs in sync with modern demands only leaves him craving for more. Shri Parakh has come out stronger and firmer after the Parivartan Yatra "Nayee Peedhi, Nayi Soch" and is all geared up to carve a golden future for the community while being true to the oath taken as the BJS National President and fulfilling the expectations of thousands of volunteers and community members who now look up to him.

# BJS's take on the Minority Status accorded to the Jain Community

With the Minority status accorded to the Jains at the national level, BJS in its ever re-inventing zeal took upon itself to spread the benefits of the status to the community. What the Jains will certainly get is a boost to strengthen the religious and cultural aspects as a community as a whole, establish educational institutions and extend Jain students a good deal of support for their educational pursuits. In a bid to promote awareness of the minority status, BJS published a set of six books and has started a Minority Helpdesk. With the passing time, we understand from the queries generated from the community that it is important to address the myriad confusions within the

community. BJS has already conducted three Minority training programs. The organisation will conduct another program in early October to create a pool of trained resource persons for generating awareness of the minority subject and ensure that real benefits of minority status reaches to the community.

Greater involvement in this subject means initiating research study and greater commitment and thus a gradual step has been taken to be more aggressive in our reach. Our dedicated Karyakartas are committed to better address the concerns of the society. The close interactions with the community people during the Parivartan Yatra on this Minority subject have made us rethink of the ways to mobilise our efforts and cater to people's needs. Going forward on the path shown by Mutthaji, BJS continues to develop strategies and design solutions that will not only address concerns of today but which will be sustainable for decades.

In view of the benefits, it is important to understand the enormity it presents to all sections across the community within its periphery, that will only help us to uplift the society. The benefits laid down by the central government for the minorities should not be equated with benefits available only to the economically weaker section from the community. It is

⊙ a matter of great relevance that the biggest benefits from the minority status will be in the education sectors – both for students as well institutions run by Minorities.

The Minority Status will help the students to access a large number of scholarships and loans provided by the Central Government. In this new reality, prominent leaders from the community should grab the opportunity and establish premiere educational institutions, benefitting the students in the community along with seeking benefits of establishing the institutes of repute. We appeal to the leaders of the community to come forth in imparting quality education and receive the benefits of the government schemes.

BJS' office bearers – the experts on minority subject - have conducted 40 lectures on Minority. 375 queries have been resolved till date and 230 online queries have been resolved till date, 11,000 Minority books have been sold and 2,758 people have downloaded the free booklets.

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# The time is ripe to build a culture for sustainable development



Parivartan Yatra has given that definitive impetus to our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for every single person in our community. During transition periods, the existing systems come under scrutiny regarding their ability to fulfill common aspirations. This is when reformations of existing systems take place based on critical re-thinking. These are the reforms that aim at promoting social inclusion while facilitating better access to the opportunities.

Parivartan Yatra has become a marvelous medium to awaken us and bring us face to face with the reality. Today, as we forge ahead for creating a better tomorrow for the society and nation at large, we are doing our best to keep pace with the evolving nature of problems and addressing the root cause for many of the problems arising every day in the modern society.

Almost thirty years in the social development sector and BJS team is still as enthusiastic and full of novel ideas to devise solutions for the concerns of the society, as it was thirty years back. When Shri Muttha began addressing concerns of the society one by one, he had the vision to look ahead of time, anticipate concerns of future and develop programs to resolve the concerns.

Despite numerous achievements, BJS believes in pushing forward to the maximum scope. We believe in adapting to new challenges and risks and seize opportunities as they emerge. The objective of the Yatra was certainly to take the programs to the masses, but more importantly, it was to establish connectivity with the youth, initiate a dialogue with them and leverage further exchange of ideas.

The theme Nayi Peedhi, Nayi Soch was apt for the Yatra. It represented the innovate thoughts for the youngsters and involving the youth to spread the work of BJS. At BJS, we understand that one cannot depend on old methods to resolve issues arising out of modernisation and globalisation. We have been striving to make additions to our programs such that they address the modern day concerns.

With the Parivartan Yatra, BJS managed to touch 20 states for the first time, over a span of five months. While some locations were familiar, there were some places where BJS initiated a conversation with the masses for the very first time. This is just a beginning to the massive expansion that we are looking at achieving in the near future.

We are delighted that we could connect with people from diverse backgrounds through the Yatra.

Capitalizing on the newly established connectivity with the youth, we aim at establishing the youth cell at various locations across the country in the due course of time and developing strategies along with the youth that will enable us to implement new methodologies to fuel our social development process.

Besides taking the already existing programs like EoG, EoC, SAP, and SAA to the masses, we got the opportunity to take our newer initiatives to the masses as well. In the modern era, it seems inappropriate to focus on just one aspect of daily life. Hence keeping in mind the professional challenges faced by individuals, BJS developed the Career Guidance Program to help students cope with career issues along with its Business Development Program to help businessmen entrepreneurial challenges.

Our newly developed school accreditation program is already being implemented by schools in a few states.

BJS has already ventured into social media. Social Media has gone beyond the scope of personal interactions, and we are looking at it as a medium through which we can tap the youth for collaboration, communicate with the beneficiaries of our programs as well as our pool of office bearers and volunteers.

We sincerely aim at capitalizing on the learnings of the Parivartan Yatra and take it forward by collaborating with the youth and spreading awareness through the modern age vehicles of communication to address and resolve subjects of national concern.



# 2014 September Events



| Program       | Date       | City        | State | Trainer/ Resource Person            | Organiser   |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>PS</b>     | 21/09/2014 | Ujjain      | MP    | Ms. Seema Oswal                     | Ms.Sasha Jain, Ms.Paridhee Data, Mr.gaurav Bafna, Mr.Rishabh Jain |
| <b>BDP</b>    | 9/9/2014   | Bhilwada    | RJ    | Mr. Rakesh Jain                     | Mr. Arvind Zhamar, Mr. Prince Kothari                             |
|               | 10/9/2014  | Pali        |       |                                     | Mr.Narpat Chopra, Mahendra Bumb                                   |
|               | 11/9/2014  | Balotra     |       |                                     | Mr. Mahavir Chopada   |
|               | 17/09/2014 | Pune        | MH    | Mr. Rakesh Jain                     | Mr. Nayan Bhandari  |
| <b>EOG TT</b> | 24-27 Sep  | Pune        | MH    | Mr. Prafulla Parakh                 | BJS Pune  |
| <b>EOG</b>    | 5-7 Sep    | Gondia      | MH    | Mr. Dilip Jain & Mr. Mahesh Kothari | Mr. Dilip Jain  |
|               | 12-14 Sep  | Gondia      | MH    | Mr. Dilip Jain & Mr. Mahesh Kothari | Mr. Dilip Jain  |
|               | 8-10 Sep   | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.ratnakar mahajan                 | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               |            | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.sanjay kshir sagar               | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               |            | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.Deepak patil                     | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               | 11-13 Sep  | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.ratnakar mahajan                 | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               |            | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.sanjay kshir sagar               | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               |            | jaisinghpur | MH    | Mr.Deepak patil                     | Mr. Abhinandan Khot   |
|               | 12-14 Sep  | Shajapur    | MP    | Ms. Rajshri Chaudhry                | Mr.Abhinav Bhandawat  |
|               | 27-29 Sep  | Kuruksheta  |       | Mr.Amar Gandhi                      | Ms. Mani Jain   |
|               | 26-28 Sep  | Salem       | TN    | Ms.Priyanka Singhvi                 | Mr. Mahendra Kumar  |
|               | 19-21 Sep  | Kottur      | KA    | Ms.Neha Gupta                       | Sri Rajuji Chopra   |
| <b>EOC</b>    | 20-21 Sep  | Shamli      | UP    | Ms.Vanita Parakh                    | Mr. Mohit Jain  |
|               | 20-21 Sep  | Ratnagiri   | MH    | Ms.Sonal Mehta                      | Mr. Sunil Jain  |
|               | 20-21 Sep  | Mandsaur    | MP    | Ms.Nitu Jain                        | Ms.Jyoti Bhachawat & Ms.Chaya Lodha                               |
|               | 13-14 Sep  | Bangalore   | KA    | Ms. Kavita Jain, Ms. Sanan Jain     | Mr. Suresh Dhoka  |
|               | 14-15 sep  | lasalgaon   | MH    | Mr.Ratnakar Mahajan                 | Mr. Nitin Jain  |



## Events



### 1st & 2nd November

#### 1st November 2014

- ✦ Youth connectivity : Enrichment through Social Participation.
- ✦ Revolutionary Change in Fixing up of Marriages: A Need of the Time.
- ✦ Minority Status : A Boon for the Community.

#### 2nd November 2014

- ✦ Essential Focus for GenNext : Education, Career & Business Enhancement.
- ✦ Issues and Concerns of Young Girls: A Social Responsibility.
- ✦ Minority Status: A Boon for the Community.

## Minority Updates

Minority Training Program was held in Pune on 9th October, 2014. With the aim to create awareness on the benefits of Minority Status, it also addresses varied confusions arising from the Status.

A two-day selection program of resource persons on Minority on 10th and 11th October 2014 is being held at BJS, Pune to select approved speakers. The pool of resource persons will create awareness of the minority subject and ensure that real benefits of minority status reaches to the community as a whole.

BJS' office bearers – the experts on minority subject - have conducted 40 lectures on Minority. 385 queries have been resolved till date and 240 online queries have been resolved till date, 11,000 Minority books have been sold and 2,907 people have downloaded the free booklets



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