

Bharti Foundation Celebrates *Rang Tarang* across 254 Satya Bharti Schools

The Annual Rang Tarang competition celebrates the essence of creativity imbibed by students of Satya Bharti Schools in the presence of local dignitaries and community members

23rd December 2015: Bharti Foundation, the development arm of Bharti Enterprises celebrated *Rang Tarang*, an annual festival, along with students, teachers and members of the community across all 254 Satya Bharti Schools located in the villages of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. During this annual event, the students of Satya Bharti Schools showcase their creativity through various competitions including painting, English quiz, Cultural Programs, etc.

Rang Tarang 2015 is being observed with the special theme of '**10 years of the Satya Bharti Schools**'. To mark this significant milestone for Bharti Foundation each school has invited dignitaries from the community to give away certificates and prizes to the students. The Schools in Neemrana are welcoming special guest Ms Deepika Mittal, former trustee of Bharti Foundation who will be launching the celebratory logo for 10 years of Satya Bharti Schools during the event. The event was also graced with the presence of dignitaries such as Mrs. Rekha Yadav, Zilla Pramukh (District Chief); Mr. Shwet Singh Mehta, DEEO; Mr. Rajesh Yadav, Head of Alwar District Sarpanch Organisation (Sanghathan), Mrs. Savita Yadav, Village Pradhan; Mr. Surendra (Johnny), Head of Neemrana Sarpanch Organisation (Sanghathan) along with more than 100 villagers and Sarpanches.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Vijay Pal Singh, Regional Head, Bharti Foundation** said, *"It is a pleasure to celebrate this special 10 year celebratory Rang Tarang with the students. Children are engaged in both classroom and out of classroom activities, contributing immensely to their holistic development and helping them imbibe the right values, life-skills and confidence. Through events such as Rang Tarang we encourage active involvement of parents, community and like-minded."*

About Bharti Foundation:

Bharti Foundation provides free education to underprivileged children in rural areas. Its Programs (Satya Bharti Schools, Satya Bharti Learning Centres, and Quality Support Program) presently reach out to over 73,000 children from socially and economically challenged backgrounds, with special focus on the girl child.

Some of the initiatives of Bharti Foundation include:

➤ The Satya Bharti School Program:

The Satya Bharti School Program is the flagship program of Bharti Foundation. This rural education initiative provides free quality education to underprivileged children, with a special focus on the girl child. The program envisions transforming students into educated, confident, responsible and self-reliant employable citizens of India with a deep sense of commitment to their society. The program's reach is multi-pronged, encouraging active involvement of the rural community, parents of students and like-minded organizations working in the field of education in India. Making a lasting and sustainable impact on the community where schools are present and finding innovative solutions, through its primary and senior secondary schools, to create replicable and scalable components in the program ensures delivery of quality education. The Satya Bharti School program is being implemented

with the intent to arrive at replicable and scalable components of quality education which may be adapted by the Government and other like-minded organizations. Reaching out to thousands of underprivileged children, the program, through its focus on holistic development, aims to bring forth a new generation of citizens eager to usher in positive change. Currently 249 primary/elementary Schools and five senior secondary schools are operational across Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal reaching out to 40,808 children and employing 1,652 teachers. Focusing on the girl child [49% girl students] and the weaker sections of society [75% of children from SC/ST/OBC Communities], the program is one of the largest end-to-end education initiatives by a corporate group in the country.

➤ **Satya Bharti Learning Centres:**

Bharti Foundation has introduced the remedial/bridge courses program in close partnership with 'Educate A Child' - a global initiative. The program aims at bridging the education gap of out of school children and mainstream them into regular schools. The first phase of the program has been deployed in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan. Currently, 417 Education Volunteers are engaged in teaching 9,135 out of school children, of which 50% are girls, enrolled at 447* Satya Bharti Learning Centres. Till now, 9,299 children have been mainstreamed, with the total impact reaching up to 20,042 children.

➤ **Quality Support Program:**

This initiative envisages working with the government system and improving the quality of schools through need-based interventions. Bharti Foundation has taken the learning and best practices from the Satya Bharti Schools to the Government schools for improving the overall quality of schooling experience. The program aims to partner the Government schools and work along with its leadership and teachers to support them in their journey towards excellence. Currently, 25 government schools are under active implementation supported through this model, across Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, reaching out to 12,377 students and 516 teachers.

➤ **Satya Bharti Abhiyan:**

Bharti Foundation has undertaken a major initiative – 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan' - to improve rural household sanitation facilities in Punjab. Inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to the corporate sector in his 2014 Independence Day speech to strengthen Government's initiative on this score, the Foundation has decided to adopt Ludhiana district – home district of the Founders - as its focus area for improvement of rural sanitation. As part of this program, the Foundation has committed an investment of INR 100 Crores over the next three years for constructing toilets in rural households lacking such facilities in over 900 villages across the district. In addition to rural household sanitation, 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan' will also invest in improving sanitation facilities in Government schools in rural Ludhiana by building new toilets for girls, where no such facilities exist.

Till now, the Abhiyan has directly benefitted 39,659 users, providing 7,982 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) across the villages of Ludhiana district.

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