

PM Narendra Modi dedicates 17,500 Toilets Built by Bharti Foundation to the Nation

Satya Bharti Abhiyan contributes to Nation building by providing individual toilets in every household of rural Ludhiana and a separate toilet for girls in Government schools across the villages of Ludhiana.

18th October, 2016, Ludhiana: Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, announced the handing over of 17,500 toilets under the aegis of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an event in Ludhiana today. The Prime Minister was visiting Ludhiana for the _____ event for MSMEs at the Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana.

The Bharti Foundation led Satya Bharti Abhiyan was launched in response to the Prime Minister's historic call to Corporates to support the Government's Swachha Bharat Abhiyan during his Independence Day Speech in 2014. Under this initiative, the Foundation is constructing individual toilets across more than 1000 villages, in households lacking such facilities. In addition, it is also improving sanitation facilities in the Government schools of rural Ludhiana by building separate toilets for girls, where no such amenities exist. The program on the targeted scale will benefit over 1,00,000 individuals. In the short span of two years the Foundation has already handed close to 16,500 toilets across 737 villages and a separate toilet for girls in 14 Government schools identified by the Punjab Education Department.

In addition to providing toilets in the focus area of Ludhiana, the students of 254 Bharti Foundation led Satya Bharti Schools located in the villages of six states of India are spreading awareness on the importance of healthy sanitation practices among their community members through community campaigns. Students have become agents of change as they reach out to the community and explain the need to maintain cleanliness as well as the means of doing so. A swell of energy is sweeping the villages in the vicinity of Satya Bharti Schools as students join hands with their teachers and reach out to Government schools, together spreading the word for sanitation. As a result of the campaigns, over 3,000 toilets have been built in the houses of students.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation said, "It is an honour and a privilege to support the Government's Swachh Bharat Mission. With Satya Bharti Abhiyan, the Foundation continues its traditions of supporting the Government's development agenda. With a direct impact on over 80,000 beneficiaries, we aim to cover all of the 1000+ villages of rural Ludhiana within this year."

TBC: <In an effort to support the local administration's aim to declare Ludhiana District Open Defecation Free, Bharti Foundation has pledged to provide additional funds that would share 50% costs with the local administration, to support the building of public and individual toilets in the urban areas of Ludhiana District.>

About Bharti Foundation:

Bharti Foundation was set up in 2000 as the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. It implements and supports programs in the field of primary, elementary, senior secondary and higher education through its flagship, the Satya Bharti School Program as well as through Government School interventions under its Satya Bharti Quality Support Program and Satya Bharti Learning Centres Program. Recently, in addition to its primary focus area of education, the Foundation initiated 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan' in 2014, to improve sanitation facilities in rural Ludhiana and 'Nyaya Bharti' in 2015, to provide legal and financial assistance to deserving underprivileged undertrials languishing in jails across the country for minor offences.