

Chairman Shrinivas Dempo Announces Partnership with Bharti Foundation during the Dempo Centennial Celebrations

Bharti Foundation to provide mentorship to a rural schools pilot project, a joint initiative between the Vasantrya Dempo Education & Research Foundation and the Government of Goa

Panaji, Goa, March 4, 2016: Mr. Shrinivas Vasudeva Dempo, trustee of the Vasantrya Dempo Education & Research Foundation (VDER&F), today announced a partnership with Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. As part of this partnership, Bharti Foundation will provide guidance and mentorship support to VDE&RF's proposed rural schools project, sanctioned by the Government of Goa. Bharti Foundation will share learnings from the Satya Bharti Quality Support Program (which works with Government Schools) and support VDER&E in articulating and achieving their goals towards creating a better schooling experience. Through this project, VDE&RF aims to assist the educational endeavours of underprivileged students in two Government schools located in the heart of rural Goa: Government Primary School, Virnoda, Pernem, and Government Primary School Vadde Colony1, Sanguem. The announcement was made during the Founder Vasantrya Dempo's centennial birth anniversary event.

The centennial was held at the new campus of Vasantrya Dempo Higher Secondary School of Science, Commerce and Arts, the multi-faculty institution delivering pre-university education, based in the outskirts of Panaji. During the event Mr. Shrinivas V. Dempo announced various social initiatives. Mr. Manohar Parrikar, Union Minister of Defence, Govt. of India, presided over the function while Mr. Laxmikant Parsekar, Chief Minister, Goa, was the guest of honour. During the event, Mr. Parsekar announced the state government's approval of the pilot project of Vasantrya Dempo Education & Research Foundation in the presence of a large number of dignitaries from government and civil society.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Shrinivas Vasudeva Dempo** said, "I had wished to pay an appropriate tribute to my grandfather's memory in terms of his ideals of education for the underprivileged, and am proud and pleased that we could not have had wiser, more-experienced mentorship in furthering these ideals than from Bharti Foundation through their Satya Bharti Quality Support Program. It is exciting to be working with the Foundation that has given the Satya Bharti schooling experience to rural India!"

Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman, Bharti Foundation said, "We are delighted to join hands with Vasantrya Dempo Education and Research Foundation. This partnership gives us the opportunity to share the learnings and best practices that we have acquired while running Satya Bharti School Program in 245 Schools of rural India."

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About Dempo Group/ VDE&RF

The Dempo business house (www.dempos.com) is the leading corporate group of Goa, employing over one thousand human resources. The Group's major activities, functioning and emerging, comprise the production and export of calcined petroleum coke, shipbuilding, newspaper publishing and the media, baby foods, real estate development, the travel business, sports promotion and mining. The group is also known for its societal pursuits, having expanded the centuries-old Dempo tradition of philanthropy and social responsibility in the state.

About VDE&RF

The Vasant Rao Dempo Education & Research Foundation (VDE&RF) was registered as a trust in the year 1983, with the twin aims of furthering research by scholars in Goa-centric studies and assisting the educational endeavours of underprivileged Goan students.

VDE&RF carries out the following activities:-

- The annual Dempo Research Fellowships, each amounting to Rupees One Lakh, encouraging Goa-centric studies by which scholars have submitted works which were later published as books to enable a wider audience for these. The publications so far from the first two Research Fellows have been an encyclopaedia of Goan art and culture, entitled "*Kaleidoscope Goa*" by Dr. Pandurang Phal Dessai, and a volume entitled '*The Goan Village Communes*' by Dr. Olivinho Gomes, on the wholly self-sufficient, age-old Goan system of local self-governance known as the '*comunidades*';
- A range of scholarships to needy students, including special such schemes for 45 children and students hailing from Santa Cruz Village, the seat of the Dempo ancestral home in Goa, with other assistance, donations, scholarships, contributions and sponsorships, all education – related, totalling to several hundred beneficiaries;
- Holding the Vasudeva V Dempo Memorial Lecture Series, in an endeavour to stimulate the intellectual life of Goa, at which eminent personalities address distinguished Goans on topical issues, whose contributors so far have been Shri K V Kamath, one-time Head, ICICI Bank, Shri P V Narasimha Rao, former Prime Minister, Dr J J Irani, Director, Tata Sons Ltd, and Dr. R K Pachauri, then Director General, The Energy & Resources Institute, and Chair, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- An ethnographic research project entitled 'Ethnogoia Deep Focus' directed by internationally known anthropologist and ethnographer, Dr. Victoria Mukerji Chowgule Ph. D., University of California, Berkeley,, aimed at uncovering issues of concern to the Goan rural populace with particular relevance to women, children,

health and civil governance, as a prelude and guide to further worthy, targeted CSR initiatives by the Group.

- Publication of the Goa Law Times, a periodical of use to the legal fraternity in the state;
- Publication, or assistance with publication, of volumes of research on Goan subjects by scholars to enable facets of Goan life to reach a wider audience, such as a recent book on the cannons of Portuguese-era Goa written by archaeologist, Dr. Abhijit Ambekar;
- Assistance to teachers of higher educational institutions managed by the Dempo Charities Trust in their endeavour to present learned papers at overseas seminars and symposia.

About Bharti Foundation

Bharti Foundation was set up in 2000 as the philanthropic arm of the Bharti Enterprises. It implements and supports programs in the field of primary, elementary, senior secondary and higher education through the Satya Bharti School Program as well as 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’, to improve sanitation facilities in rural Ludhiana and ‘Nyaya Bharti’ to provide legal and financial assistance to deserving underprivileged under-trials languishing in jails across the country for minor offences.

Bharti Foundation has till date touched the lives of nearly 1,40,000 students from underprivileged background through its initiatives in the education sector. These programs have already been recognized as one of the largest private sector initiatives of the country in this sector. Satya Bharti Abhiyan has also achieved the distinction of having delivered over 10,000 household toilets, directly benefitting more than 50,000 beneficiaries in 444 villages. The program on the targeted scale will eventually benefit nearly 1,25,000 individuals covering over 900 villages. To learn more, visit: www.bhartifoundation.org

Some of the initiatives of Bharti Foundation include:

SATYA BHARTI SCHOOL PROGRAM:

This program is the flagship initiative of Bharti Foundation, focusing on primary, elementary and senior secondary education for underprivileged children in rural India. Currently, 249 primary/elementary schools and five senior secondary schools are operational across the villages of Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Program aims to transform children into educated, employable and responsible citizens of tomorrow. The schools

provide free quality education to the children with a special focus on the girl child. In addition to free education, the schools also provide free mid- day meals, text books, note books, shoes and other stationary items to all the students. Launched in 2006, this year the Satya Bharti School Program is celebrating 10 years of successful implementation. The initiative has over 40,000 students currently enrolled, having reached out to close to 1,25,000 students since inception. The Program aims to set benchmarks in quality education across the country.

SATYA BHARTI LEARNING CENTRES:

Bharti Foundation has introduced the remedial/bridge course program in partnership with '*Educate a Child*', a global initiative. The program currently reaches out to over 20,000 children and aims at bridging the gap in learning among 'out of school' children to mainstream them into regular schools. The program was first undertaken in Rajasthan and has recently been extended to Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

SATYA BHARTI QUALITY SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Bharti Foundation has taken learnings and best practices from Satya Bharti Schools to Government schools to improve the overall quality of the schooling experience. This initiative envisages working with the State Education Departments to improve the quality of schooling in Government schools through need-based interventions. The Foundation seeks to partner with Government schools and work along with their leadership and teachers to support them in their journey towards excellence. The program, currently reaches out to over 12,000 students.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Bharti Foundation partnered with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 2000 to set up the **Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management, IIT Delhi**. The Foundation has also set up the **Bharti Centre for Communication, Bombay** in partnership with IIT, Bombay. Bharti Foundation recognizes and awards scholarships to exceptionally talented students to pursue studies at The Cambridge University, UK through the **Manmohan Singh Bursary Fund**. In addition, **Bharti Institute of Public policy, Mohali** has been set up in a partnership between Indian School of Business (ISB) and Bharti Enterprises with Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (USA) as its partner school.

SATYA BHARTI ABHIYAN:

On 18th August 2014, Bharti Foundation launched Satya Bharti Abhiyan, an initiative to improve sanitation facilities in the rural areas of Punjab's Ludhiana District. The Foundation has committed an investment of up to INR 100 Crores to improve sanitation conditions by constructing individual toilets for households lacking such facilities in over 900 villages across Ludhiana District. The program on the targeted scale will eventually benefit close to 1,25,000 individuals.

In less than eighteen months of its launch, over 10,000 toilets across 444 villages have been constructed and handed over free of cost to individual households. In addition to rural household

sanitation, separate toilets for girls have also been constructed by Bharti Foundation in 14 Government schools in rural Ludhiana.

NYAYA BHARTI:

Nyaya Bharti was launched in November 2015 to help underprivileged under trials and first time offenders languishing in jails across the country for minor offences by assisting them with legal and financial assistance and also promoting awareness about every individual's constitutional right to legal defense. It is a first of its kind corporate initiative in the country in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Vision of '*Sabka Nyaya*' – *Access to Justice for All*.

For further information, please contact:

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