

## **Hon'ble Union Home Minister launches Satya Bharti School Program in Tamil Nadu**

*Bharti Foundation to open 10 Satya Bharti primary schools  
in Tamil Nadu by June 2009*

**Siruvayal Sivaganga, February 07, 2009:** The Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Mr. P Chidambaram today launched the Satya Bharti School program in Tamil Nadu. The first Satya Bharti School in the state was inaugurated today by the Hon'ble Minister in Village Satharasanpatti, block Siruvayal (Distt. Sivaganga).

The Satya Bharti School program is the flagship initiative of Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises. The program aims to provide quality education to underprivileged children in rural India.

On the occasion Mr. P Chidambaram said, "Education is the key pillar for the economic and social wellbeing of any nation. I am delighted to launch this program as it will offer thousands of students in rural areas of Tamil Nadu access to quality education. I congratulate Bharti Foundation's efforts in promoting quality education in rural areas and hope their project will contribute to the development process of the state."

The Foundation aims to set up a total of 10 Satya Bharti Schools in Tamil Nadu by June 2009 that will reach out to over 2100 children and employ 40 teachers. Besides Satharasanpatti, schools will be located in the villages of Pudhu Kandanoor, Pethanendhal, Pethachikidirrupu, Allampattu, Panangudi, Managiri, Vadakudi, Papakudi (in Karaikudi taluk) and Thenkarai village (in Thirupathur taluk).

Over the next few years, Bharti Foundation plans to set up 500 Satya Bharti Primary Schools and 50 Senior Secondary Schools that will reach out to over 200,000 children in villages across India. Of this, 236 primary schools and 10 secondary schools will be set up in the first phase of operations. The Satya Bharti School Program aims to provide free quality education to underprivileged children in the deepest rural pockets of the country, with special focus on the girl child. Books, uniforms and mid-day meals are also provided to students free of cost. Local youth are also provided employment opportunities as teachers in these schools and Bharti makes considerable investment in their training and development.

The teaching methods followed at the schools are aimed towards boosting the children's intellect, by building curiosity and keeping them in natural surroundings. Currently 158 Satya Bharti Primary Schools are operational across the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, with more than 17,000 children and over 600 teachers.

### **About Bharti Foundation**

Bharti Enterprises set up Bharti Foundation in 2000 to help underprivileged children and young people of our country realize their potential. Bharti Foundation has been creating and supporting programs that bring about sustainable improvement in the field of education - both primary and higher education. The Foundation has adopted a two-pronged strategy to make a difference in the



## **Bharti Foundation**

quality of elementary education in the country through its Satya Bharti School Program. In addition to the above two flagship programs Bharti Foundation has also initiated and set up 26 Bharti Computer Centres and 104 Bharti Library and Activity Centres (BLAC) across the country and partnered with premier institutes like the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 2000 to set up the Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management, IIT Delhi. It has also entered into a partnership with IIT, Bombay to set up the Bharti Centre for Communication, Bombay. The Bharti Scholarship and Mentorship program has also been instituted to support academically brilliant students from financially weak backgrounds.