

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB LAUNCHES SATYA BHARTI SCHOOL PROGRAM

100 Satya Bharti Schools (Primary) and 10 Senior Secondary cum Vocational Training Schools for underprivileged children to be set up in Punjab

- *Bharti Foundation to provide completely free quality education to underprivileged children in villages*
- *Children to receive free mid-day meals, books & stationery, uniforms and scholarships*
- *Satya Bharti Schools to bring in innovative teaching learning material and classroom processes*
- *Bharti Foundation's flagship program to benefit over 30,000 children across Punjab by giving them access to quality education*

Ludhiana, April 15, 2008: Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab today launched the Satya Bharti School Program in Punjab. Under the program, Bharti Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, will set up 100 village primary schools across Punjab.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Satya Bharti School situated in Ladhawal village, Dist. Ludhiana. Also present at the occasion were Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises and Mr. Rajan Bharti Mittal, Managing Director, Bharti Enterprises.

The Satya Bharti School program is an innovative model of public-private partnership programs in the country. It aims to make available high-quality education to poor children, out-of-school children, migrant children and especially the girl child. 8 Satya Bharti primary schools and 21 community centres are already operational in Punjab with more than 1200 children and over 100 teachers.

On the occasion, Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal said *"With more than 300 million illiterate children in India in the age group of 7 years and above, providing access to quality education is a major challenge for the country. The Satya Bharti School program is a unique example of a public-private partnership to create temples of learning for underprivileged children, in particular the girl child. We believe that this initiative will provide an opportunity to thousands of underprivileged children to be a part of mainstream education and offer them with a platform to participate in the nation's economic growth."*

Mr. Rajan Bharti Mittal said, *"With the Satya Bharti School program we are committed to provide the best of infrastructure and teaching facilities to children. We believe that this initiative will go a long way in filling the need gap for education in rural areas and benefit the economy of the region at large. I would like to thank the government and village communities for their active support to this initiative."*

By 2010 Bharti Foundation will reach out to more than 2,00,000 children through 500 Primary and 50 Senior Secondary cum Vocational Training Satya Bharti Schools across the country. Apart from the regular curriculum, these 50 Senior Secondary cum Vocational Training Satya Bharti Schools will train the students in professional skills to equip them for future employment opportunities within their own villages and communities.

The curriculum and teaching-learning processes is designed to help children acquire skills to explore, question, reason, communicate effectively and acquire values that help them stay rooted to their culture and connect with the society. The education initiatives of Bharti Foundation involve working closely with the government machinery and the local community. Bharti Foundation works towards creating a sense of participation among the community members, instilling in them a sense of ownership towards the school.

About Bharti Foundation

Bharti Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Bharti Enterprises. It was set up in the year 2000 to help underprivileged children and young people of our country realize their potential. In order to realize this vision, Bharti Foundation has been creating and supporting programs that bring about sustainable changes in the field of education.

Bharti Foundation has adopted a two-pronged strategy to directly impact the quality of education in schools. On one hand, is the School Improvement Program (SIP), where Bharti Foundation works in close partnership with state governments by adopting government schools to enhance the quality of education. On the other hand, Bharti Foundation is establishing its own Primary Satya Bharti Schools and Sr. Secondary and Vocational Training Satya Bharti Schools.

Bharti Foundation has also initiated and set up a number of Bharti Computer Centres across the country in association with organizations like Pratham Infotech, Kalakar Trust and Adharshila. In January 2005, the Bharti Library and Activity Centre (BLAC) program was launched with a goal to introduce underprivileged children to the world of books and help them upgrade their reading skills.

Bharti Foundation has also 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. Bharti Foundation 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.

For more details contact:

Ashutosh Sharma
Corporate Communications, BhartiEnterprises
09818763772

Aneesh Bhanot
Shaan PR
09815047017