
Dr. Suraj Prakash

A Life Dedicated to The Nation



Bharat Vikas Parishad Prakashan
उत्तिष्ठत जाग्रत √ Uttishthat Jagrat

Donot be afraid of a small beginning, great things come afterwards. Be courageous. Donot try to lead your brethren, but serve them. The brutal mania for leading has sunk many a great ship in the water of life. Take care especially of that, i.e. be unselfish even unto death, and work.

V V V

Go on bravely. Do not expect success in a day or a year, be steady. Avoid jealousy and selfishness.

– Swami Vivekanand

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FOREWORD

The greatest quality of a leader is that he is a visionary and has the determination and capacity to turn those visions into reality. He is full of self-confidence and no obstacle can break his determination to attain his goal. He has full trust in his followers and always shares his vision with them. He has the ability to effectively communicate his ideas with his colleagues and has a charming personality which binds others to him.

Dr. Suraj Prakash had all these qualities in abundant measure. From the beginning he was a brilliant student and always remained at the top of his academic career. But he was not satisfied with these achievements. Serving the society was the vision and mission of his life for which he strived up to the last moment. He did not use his academic degrees to accumulate wealth but served the poor and downtrodden of the society with all his might. Helping the refugees at the time of partition was the testing ground for him and he proved himself to be a leader for whom leadership meant sacrifice.

Dr. Saheb was a man of organization and he did not tread his path alone. He was pained to see the affluent section of the society working for their own comforts and completely unmindful of the woes of the poor. He gave a clarion call to the high and mighty, organized them and built a huge organization brick by brick with their help and participation. He built this mansion on the solid foundation of Indian values, culture and ideas. He did not copy the foreign organizations at all.

Dr. Saheb had a fairly large family, his medical practice kept him quite busy and most of all he worked hard and incessantly for the organization he had founded. But he fulfilled all his duties in an excellent manner and none felt neglected.

In this small book an effort has been made to cover the main events and the qualities of the life of this noble personality. I hope the narrations will benefit all of us. The photographs taken at some important occasions have further added to the value of this collection.

I congratulate the Prakashan Vibhag of Bharat Vikas Prishad for bringing out this beautiful publication.

S.K. Wadhwa

National Secretary General

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Dr. Suraj Prakash

A Life Dedicated to The Nation

Early Life

Dr. Suraj Prakash was the founder Secretary General and architect of Bharat Vikas Parishad. He lit one lamp that lit many more lamps and handed it over to the posterity, so that we go on lighting lamp after lamp until the whole country and the world are brightened by their ever-shinning light.

This great man was born in village Chhamal of Gurdaspur District of Punjab, as the eldest son of Sh. Ram Saran Mahajan and Smt. Mela Devi, on 27th June 1920. His father was working in an Insurance Company. It was a devoted and religious Arya Samajist family. From childhood he was a brilliant student and a pleasant and cooperative person. He passed his Matriculation examination topping the list.

He joined the medical stream course and passed F.Sc. (Medical), standing first in Delhi. He was awarded a scholarship and was sent by Delhi along with one more student for M.B.B.S., to King Edward Medical College Lahore, which he passed with distinction in 1943.

After passing his M.B.B.S., he worked as House Surgeon in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and later as teacher in Sir Balak Ram Medical College Lahore.

Partition and Helping the Refugees

The Country was partitioned in 1947. At that time he was in Lahore, helping Hindus to migrate safely to India. He was virtually carrying reward on his head along with certain co-workers and every evening a stock needed to be taken of who were with them in the morning but failed to return.

When things became too hot he migrated to Jammu and took up the important work of providing relief and rehabilitation to the people coming in large numbers from Western Punjab and other surrounding areas. He tackled the gigantic task with efficiency and resourcefulness. It was here that he gained experience of doing

social work, organizing relief and managing scarce funds. He plunged himself so much into this work that his family rarely knew his whereabouts at any particular time. With qualities of patriotism, discipline, fearlessness and sacrifice, he never cared for the danger to his life.

Shifting to Delhi

In 1948, after completing his work in Jammu, Dr. Suraj Prakash shifted to Delhi and started his own private medical practice. For some time he established his clinic along with his class fellow and friend Dr. Roshan Lal Behl on Sadar Thana Road but later on he started his independent clinic in Pahar Ganj. His residence was in the nearby locality of Choona Mandi.

In 1950, at the age of 30, he was married to Smt. Ayodhia Gupta, the talented, educated and highly accomplished daughter of Sh. Ram Lal Gupta, the then Accountant General of Jammu & Kashmir. She was a great personality in her own right. She was double M.A. in Music and Dance and was Honorary Magistrate. She was a great moral and physical strength for Dr. Saheb. Their eldest child, a daughter, Manju, was born in 1951 followed by their only son, Rakesh, in 1954 and two more daughters in 1960 and 1961. Thus, in all, they had 3 daughters and one son.

In 1958, when Dr. Suraj Prakash was only 38, he suffered a severe jolt when his respected father who had sacrificed a lot for country's independence, breathed his last, leaving the responsibility of looking after his mother, 2 sisters and 3 brothers on Dr. Saheb. Till then, except the elder sister, who had been married in the life time of his father, all others were yet to be married and settled. Dr. Saheb discharged this responsibility with love, courage and affection. The three brothers, Sh. Anand Prakash, Sh. Devendra Prakash and Sh. Surendra Prakash as well as the younger sister were all settled in life and their marriages were also performed by Dr. Saheb like those of his own children.

In 1958, when his father died, Dr. Saheb felt the necessity to accommodate his brothers and sisters and his own children with him. So, he built a house of his own in West Patel Nagar, New Delhi.

Citizens Council

In October, 1962 China invaded India. India was not at all ready for the aggression. The Indian forces had neither the arms to fight nor they had equipment, uniform, and even shoes to wear at the Himalayan heights in the freezing winter. The Chinese forces entered the Indian borders and our army suffered huge losses. Dr. Suraj Prakash at once swung into action and formed a Citizens Council. The Council appealed to the general public and collected warm sweaters, socks, medicines and dry fruits in large quantity and sent it to the government for dispatch to the frontiers. The Citizens Council was a huge success and a thought flashed in the mind of Dr. Saheb to give this organization a permanent foundation.

Founding of Bharat Vikas Prishad

The Year 1963 was a Century Year of the birth of Swami Vivekanand. The event was celebrated on 12th January all over the country in a big way. It is very often said that the Citizens Council was converted into Bharat Vikas Prishad. But it was not a sudden event. It was the outcome of a long thought process..

Dr. Saheb had been observing that the elite of the society and the prosperous persons, were, day by day, getting selfish, self-centered and alienated from society. He was very perturbed with this dismal situation and used to discuss the matter with his like minded friends as how to find a remedy for this malady.

Ultimately, in 1963, he unfolded his scheme of starting Bharat Vikas Parishad as a body of the elite, committed to the service of the country, before a select band of 28-30 persons in West Patel Nagar, The group agreed with his suggestion and Bharat Vikas Parishad came into being. This group constituted the nucleus of the organization. Later, they used to meet at Hotel Marina, once a month under the Presidentship of late Lala Hans Raj Gupta. At that time none of the participants had any idea what shape Bharat Vikas Parishad would take in the years to come, but the man of vision like Dr. Suraj Prakash could see into the future. He had a

very clear notion about the future of the organization. He nurtured his organization with tireless efforts, and dynamism for nearly 3 decades and made it grow into a vast organization.

Expansion of BVP

In the beginning the Parishad had only one branch in West Patel Nagar, New Delhi. The annual membership fee was Rs. 10/- only. Dr. Saheb's residence at West Patel Nagar was the office of the organization. The organization accepted Swami Vivekanand as its role-model.

In 1967 National Group Song Competition was started from Delhi. Its rules were framed by the famous music director Anil Vishwas and Dr. Zakir Hussain, the President of India distributed the prizes. Another Branch outside Delhi was set up at Dehradun in 1968. In 1969, a half yearly magazine NITI started its publication. In the beginning it was published only in English and there were no news or photographs. Only articles were published. Dr. Suraj Prakash was its managing editor.

Installation of Shiva Ji Statue

In 1972 Dr. Suraj Prakash ji undertook a big project. Year 1973 was the Tercentary year of the Rajya Abhishek of Chhatrapati Shiva. Shivaji who in his time proved himself a saviour, an emperor and a brave fighter. So in 1972, it was decided to install an elegant statue of Shivaji astride a horse at some central place of Delhi. The place selected was the junction point of Minto Road and Thomson Road. A thirty feet high platform was constructed and a eighteen and a half feet high horse mounted statue of Shivaji was got prepared. It was unveiled by the then President of India, Shri V.V. Giri in the presence of Finance Minister and former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Y.B. Chavan and many VIPs and dignataries. Minto Bridge was named as Shivaji Bridge and the railway station was named as Shivaji Station.

Further Expansion of BVP

In 1978 first All India Conference of BVP was held at Delhi. In 1979 its Branches were started in Punjab and Haryana. After that

a National Governing Board was formed and its first meeting was held at Delhi. Some more branches were started in J & K, Southern India, Uttar Pradesh etc.

In the year 1990, another benchmark achievement was made. A Viklang Sahayta Kendra was inaugurated at Dilshad Garden, Delhi. Now it has been expanded into a big Centre which manufactures artificial limbs of very high quality and gives them to the handicapped free of charge.

The number of branches also crossed the magic figure of 100 and reached 135.

Family Troubles, Failing Health and Death

Constant hard work, travelling and long hours of work for the Parishad and in looking after his numerous patients, took their toll. His health could not keep pace with the tempo of his activities. When only 51, he underwent stone operation and suffered his first heart attack, when only 55.

Within 2 months of the marriage of his eldest daughter, Dr. Suraj Prakash suffered the shocking death of his wife in 1980. This was an unbearable loss. It is then, that he got his second heart attack that kept him in bed for nearly 2 months. In spite of his failing health and shocking events around him, he kept on working incessantly-travelling, attending meetings, holding discussions, writing letters and attending long telephone calls.

In 1985, untimely death of his eldest daughter occurred when she was only 34. The very next year, Dr. Saheb had to undergo surgery for removal of Gall Bladder stones. In 1988, he discharged his last obligation by solemnising the marriage of his youngest daughter. But the tale of his woes kept on chasing him. In January, 1991, he had to suffer yet another tragedy in the shape of the death of his respected mother. Only 20 days after this, while he was very much in the thick of making fool-proof arrangements for smooth conduct of All India Conference of Bharat Vikas Parishad, scheduled to be held at Udaipur on 6th February, 1991, just 4 days before the Conference, Dr. Saheb suffered his last heart attack

that proved fatal. He could not find time to undergo heart surgery which he badly needed in order to survive. How ironical it is that he had finally agreed to go in for surgery at the conclusion of Udaipur conference, but his physique gave way and he died of a massive heart attack on 2nd February, 1991. Cruel hands of death snatched him from us. It was not the death of a man. It was the end of an era.

A Leader of Charmistic Personality

Even in a brief encounter, Dr. Suraj Prakash would impress as a man who had a lot within him and was impatient to take the people out of a morass and infuse in them a spirit of selfless service and love for the motherland.

As architect of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Dr. Suraj Prakash, built this organisation brick by brick. He lived for the Parishad and ultimately laid down his life for it. In his life time, he created a highly dedicated, motivated and competent team of co-workers capable of fulfilling his mission. Thus the caravan of Bharat Vikas Parishad will go on, ever guided by the immortal flame of Dr. Suraj Prakash's spirit, even after he ceased to lead it physically.

Although Dr. Suraj Prakash was essentially a sobre and serious looking person, he had flashes of wit and humour. His small jokes spread brightness all around. His visits were welcomed by his large circle of friends and admirers everywhere and at all times.

Heading an all India network, he had the usual lot of disappointments and dejections from people who talk in tonnes and practise in grams, but he never withdrew himself into the cocoon of inaction. He always used to advise not to get disappointed with failure, because, he used to say that every failure in the beginning ultimately turns out to be the foundation for success in future.

A Duty Conscious Person

Dr. Suraj Prakash was an intensely duty conscious person. He discharged all his duties - towards the family, the patients and the society at large with full devotion and sincerity. He, in fact, established an example how social service can be carried on

along with professional and family obligations. Right from 8 in morning till 10 at night, sometimes till midnight, he would tirelessly work for all.

He ran the Central Office of Bharat Vikas Parishad from his own house, much to his inconvenience and the inconvenience of his son, who, being in computer business, badly needed space for it. Almost the whole of the ground floor was occupied by the Office of the Parishad since it had no office of its own. There used to be occasions when the Central body ran short of money owing to default of its branches. On such occasions Dr. Saheb spent his own money to keep the machine moving. At the time of his demise, Bharat Vikas Parishad, owed quite a handsome amount to Dr. Sahib, which, later on was generously donated by his worthy son.

Few people are marked by destiny to act at the centre stage of life as propagators of a new thought stream, originators of a missionary movement and progenitors of a nationwide organisation. Dr. Suraj Prakash was among such privileged few. He was born with a mission in life and was endowed by nature with the qualities essential for its fulfilment - high character, integrity, discipline, a sense of vision, faith, missionary zeal, indomitable spirit, organising ability, selflessness and capacity for sacrifice. Thus, Suraj Prakash was made of a stuff, all missionaries and pioneers are made of. He was one of those whom duty beckons and who answer its call wholeheartedly. Single-minded and relentless in the pursuit of the objective, he was undeterred by difficulties and set-backs. Essentially, a kind heart, warm and sincere person, he was highly appreciative of sincerity, dedication and selflessness in others. Yet he had a sense of realism and large heartedness to tolerate even insincerity, humbug and hypocrisy, which he abhorred from the bottom of his heart. He disliked financial indiscipline, waste and extravagance, but himself was generous to a fault. Year after year, he rescued Bharat Vikas Parishad from financial crisis by advancing substantial sums of money.

Some Stirring Thoughts of *Dr. Suraj Prakashji*

Effective speaking was one of the strong points of his personality. He was not a roaring or thundery orator but small, simple, well spaced, softly spoken sentences coming straight from the heart, interspersed with examples from day to day life touched the hearts and left deep and long lasting impression on the audience. It was always a pleasure to listen to his well analysed, appropriately worded and convincing talks on aims, objects, principles, background and working of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

He was closely associated with many social, professional, educational and service organisations but Bharat Vikas Parishad, being his own creation, always claimed top priority.

Going through his advice, exhortations, and directions contained in his monthly contributions under the Secretary General's column in NITI was an edifying experience. One learns a great deal and acquires practical wisdom from the vast treasure house of his experience and thought provoking ideas which he put in the articles written for NITI from time to time. Some of these are reproduced in the next few pages. All the time his emphasis was on commitment, performance of duty and sincerity of approach. There was no discrepancy in what he professed and what he did. Where will we find a man like Dr. Suraj Prakash?

Service without Fanfare

More service than publicity is the watchword of Bharat Vikas Parishad. Publicity of Parishad's activities is necessary, but it has to be watched that self-publicity is not made in the guise of Parishad's publicity. The path the Parishad has undertaken is hard to follow. It requires tremendous discipline, self-control and sacrifice, as well as the development of a missionary spirit, which alone can bring about a change in the people's thinking, and revive their 'SANSKARS' and their faith in the ancient values of our motherland. We have to mould ourselves, our ideas and actions so that we are able to rise above narrowmindedness and work devotedly for the

unity, integrity and freedom of our country. Ethical values, broadmindedness and liberalism should be predominant in everything we do. Constant awareness of the ideals, aims and objects alone can guarantee the success of our mission.

If our urge for public service is so easily satisfied by cheap and superficial service, the very purpose of Bharat Vikas Parishad will be defeated and it will not be and different from the Lions and Rotary. It was never the intention of the founders of the Parishad to make it a carbon copy of these clubs. To justify its existence, the Parishad must provide such avenues of genuine service which normally are not available to members of these clubs. It is because of the special avenues of service which the Parishad offers that a large number of Rotarians and Lions of high standing in their respective clubs have been attracted to the Parishad. It is our duty to see that they are not disappointed and they are able to find what they have come to seek. Bharat Vikas Parishad should not be allowed to degenerate into an ordinary club and its identity and purity should be preserved at any cost.

(NITI-July, 1989)

Women's Participation

A great deal has been written and said at different fora on the place of women in the present Indian society and their role in the 'Vikas' of the country. The aim of this exercise has been mainly to focus attention on the importance of women as catalysts of social change, creating an awareness and awakening among our women, encouraging them to shed their traditional inhibitions, so that they may come forward and take their place in the front rank with those who have dedicated themselves to transform society in the light of the ideals, aims and objects of Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Talking of women's participation, we need to be reminded that membership of the Parishad is extended to the couple, and not merely to an individual. Even though membership may be in the name of a man, the wife is an equal member and should be encouraged to take her place by her husband's side in every activity of the Parishad. **Among other committees, a Mahila**

Samiti is also formed to execute the policies and programmes at local level, but the formation of a Mahila Wing as a parallel body is unthinkable, as it is repugnant to the very concept of joint membership, which is a unique feature of Bharat Vikas Parishad. Mahila Wings with their paraphernalia of separate president, vice president, secretary, treasurer etc. have no place in our organisation. The Mahila Samiti with its convenor should work **as an integral part of the branch** under the supervision and control of the executive body. However more and more women should be inducted into the executive and encouraged to hold important and sensitive offices like president, secretary and treasurer, which should not remain the exclusive preserve of men.

(NITI, November, 1989)

Simple Living - High Thinking

We must also be careful to eliminate programmes and objects which serve little purpose, which carry us nowhere near to our cherished goals and which consume too much of effort, time and resources. In this context, I refer to activities which begin and end with socialising, feasting and merrymaking, the so called cultural activities which merely promote the cheap and decadent culture of the West at the cost of our own rich and tried cultural heritage, which we in the Parishad have pledged our selves *to uphold and strengthen*. Some entertainment in the form of music and dance is not bad, but it should be in the classical and indigenous tradition of our country. **Feasting and entertainment should be minimal**, so that our limited funds may not be frittered away on them. Let our **functions be simple and elegant**, for elegance can be achieved without expensive and gaudy display. Showmanship, gimmickery, excessive publicity, self-advertisement must yield place to **quite and efficient organisation** and **maintenance of proper decorum**. Let us not forget that **'SIMPLE LIVING AND HIGH THINKING'** is the cherished motto of our Parishad. By budgeting our expenditure, and diligent collections, and **exercise of economy and strict financial discipline** we can avoid financial crises, which many of

our branches face due to lack of foresight. In recent circulars to the State Presidents and General Secretaries, the need for careful supervision of the branches has been emphasised. Let us hope the all these branches which have failed to fulfil their financial obligations to the State, the Centre or Niti, will not only clear up the arrears but also ensure that arrears do not accumulate in future.

(NITI, December, 1989)

Discipline

DISCIPLINE is the cornerstone of every organisation. The Parishad will prosper only so long as it is based on the firm principles of discipline, selfless service and sacrifice. Every exponent of selfless service and sacrifice has to discipline himself first and subordinate his own self and ego to the larger organisation through which he has pledged himself to serve the country and the people. If anyone mistakenly believes that he is above the organisation and he need not take directions from above is a misfit in the organisation, whose presence is likely to cause more harm than good, even if he may be otherwise, sincere and dynamic. In the three tier organisational set up of the Parishad, the guidance, supervision and monitoring of branch activities is entirely the responsibility of the State Executive and there can be no questioning the state's authority and discretion in any matter pertaining to the branches under its control. There can be no alibi for noncompliance of the state directives and indiscipline will not be tolerated at any cost.

(NITI, April, 1990)

The Bane of Unpunctuality

Bharat Vikas Parishad has attached great significance to punctuality, because punctuality is the expressive symbol of intrinsic culture, self-discipline and high sense of responsibility, which should be the hallmark of every one who wants to be counted among the elite. Bharat Vikas Parishad being the most elitest of all socio-cultural organisations is expected to take the lead in observing discipline and punctuality not only in our organisational work but

also in our own private life. **It is most disappointing and painful to come across instances of gross unpunctuality on almost every occasion in every part of the country, which shows that during all these years of our close association with Bharat Vikas Parishad, the majority of our members have failed to imbibe this quality and make it a habit of life.** To the masses who are growing increasingly indifferent to punctuality, we in the Parishad owe a duty to teach it by our own example. **We expect others to be punctual but rarely try to be punctual ourselves. It is disgraceful that sometimes even the secretary or convenor of a function does not reach the venue in time. Guests, including the chief guest, have to waste much time waiting till organisers** hastily put up the dais and made other arrangements. This gives a poor impression of the Parishad and often repels a few prospective members, who could truly be an asset to us. Members of the Parishad, in general, and every office-bearer and member of the executive, in particular, are duty bound to observe strict punctuality in Parishad functions. Office bearers and those responsible for organising the function must reach well in advance and ensure that all arrangements are completed well before the given time and before the guests start arriving.

(NITI, August, 1990)

Sarvangin Vikas

BHARAT VIKAS PARISHAD IS COMMITTED TO THE SARVANGIN VIKAS' of the country - Vikas in the widest sense, which includes progress and prosperity, and these are indivisible from peace. Instability is the enemy of peace. Nothing can be achieved when conditions are disturbed and a sense of insecurity prevails. Bharat Vikas Parishad has, therefore, a vested interest in the maintenance of public peace, order and the normal functioning, of the service, business, commerce, industry, agriculture, courts and educational institutions. It cannot give its blessing to any agitation or activity aimed at disrupting the normal functioning of life in any part of the country, because it retards growth. For this reason, we are opposed to terrorism and militancy, which weaken

the nation. When the armed forces, instead of keeping a constant vigil against intrusion and invasion, have to be diverted to suppress violent or peaceful agitations, the security of the nation is jeopardised. At a time when the country is faced with external aggression and internal disruption and dismemberment, when our entire attention should be devoted to the preservation of our unity and integrity, it is the duty of every patriotic Indian to desist from involving the country in controversies and violence over issues, which are in no way vital for the country's well being and which could wait for peaceful decision in due course of time.

(NITI, November, 1990)

Bharat Vikas Parishad and other Socio - Cultural Organisations

(BVP is not a Club)

Bharat Vikas Parishad is a non-political, socio-cultural service organisation of the elite among the citizens. There are other social organisations of the elite also functioning like the Rotary and the Lions. A member of the Rotary Club cannot become a member of the Lions and vice versa, but no such restriction applies to the membership of the Bharat Vikas Parishad because it is basically different from the other socio-cultural clubs.

Primarily, Bharat Vikas Parishad is not a 'club'. It is a Council of the elite, intellectuals and the well to-do. who have dedicated themselves to the service of the poor, disabled, illiterate and the ignorant by gradually developing in them a sense of responsibility and self-confidence, which is really the concept of our service to the needy.

The Rotary and other international organisations were born outside India and they generally draw inspiration from sources which are alien. They carry a deep stamp of an alien culture, which has also affected their thinking and activities. The ultimate control of these organisation lies in the hands of people outside India. A big proportion of the funds raised by these organisations goes to foreign lands and is spent at the discretion of the foreigners.

A very small proportion of these funds is available for the benefit of people in this country. Outwardly, these clubs have **adopted** the local and national garb, local languages are used and the National Anthem is also sung, yet a feeling of cultural inferiority and **subjugation** to the tinsel world of the West persists and is **discernible** all along. On the contrary, Bharat Vikas Parishad is wholly and totally an indigenous organisation, which is intensely nationalistic in outlook. It was conceived and born in India and it draws inspiration from Indian culture and Indian values, for the protection and propagation of which it has been established.

In Bharat Vikas Parishad women have a significant role to play. It is fully conscious of its responsibility for the comprehensive and multifaceted development of the society. This cannot be achieved unless it is able to carry along with it the women force of India, who constitute half of our population. Therefore, women enjoy equal status and eligibility for membership in our constitution. In fact, membership is granted not to an individual male or female but jointly to the couple.

The main distinction, however, lies in our ideals, our philosophy, aims, objectives, activities and finally, in our way of thinking.

The aim of the clubs is essentially social get together, and eating and entertainment are naturally integral to it. The Parishad also appreciates the importance of fellowship, without which contact (Sampark) and cooperation (Sahyog) are not possible. But fellowship in the Parishad is only a means to an end and not the end in itself. Therefore, only so much stress need be laid on fellowship as may be necessary to reach out, create contacts and secure cooperation.

Social service is the aim of both the Parishad and the clubs, but the definition of 'Service' is different. Service in Bharat Vikas Parishad denotes working for the total development of the country, protection of the national culture and heritage, revival and propagation of our cultural and moral values and national reconstruction in the light of these values. Naturally, the Parishad should take up such programmes which are likely to have a deep

impact on society and the country, and for the success of its programmes the very mentality of our people needs to be changed. Every programme of the Parishad should aim at bringing about a change in the thinking of people and, in this respect, it is an idealistic missionary organisation whose mission needs to be understood properly. Compared to it, the social service rendered by the clubs is merely a cosmetic affair which has no deep impact on society. Such superficial service may give a feeling of self-satisfaction to those who spend a fraction of their immense wealth in the name of public service, but their real objective is self-publicity and self-promotion. Hardly a small fraction of the money spent in the name of social service in the clubs reaches the needy who are supposed to be benefitted. There is more publicity than service.

Bharat Vikas Parishad is Non - Political

BVP has no political aims or ambitions. It has no links with any political or, for that matter, with any other organisation. As individuals, its members are free to hold political views of their own, so long as their views do not come into conflict with the ideals of the Parishad, but no member, however high in Parishad hierarchy, can be permitted to involve the Parishad in any programme and activity motivated by political or likely to serve the political interest of any political party or individual. The lure of political power is too great to resist and some active and dynamic members are sometimes caught in its web. This not only reduces their utility to the Parishad but virtually makes them a liability, because instead of serving the organisation they want the organisation to serve them in the fulfilment of their political ambitions. Therefore, Bharat Vikas Parishad not only keeps itself strictly aloof from politics but denies political activists any significant role in the organisation.

For *anything and everything* regarding Bharat Vikas Parishad visit Parishad's website : www.bvpindia.com

Parishad's Progress During the Life Time of Dr. Suraj Prakash

- 1963 12 January:** Citizens Council set up by Dr. Suraj Parkash initially to mobilize citizens' efforts to fight the Chinese attack was renamed as the Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) on the birth centenary of Swami Vivekanand and thus BVP was born.
- 10th July:** BVP is registered as a Society under The Societies Registration Act 1860. The first meeting is also held on this date.
- 1967** First Group Song Competition is held and President Zakir Hussein distributes the prizes to the winners.
- 1968** First branch outside Delhi is set up at Dehradun in Uttar Pradesh.
- 1969** BVP decides to publish NITI and Dr. Suraj Parkash becomes its first Managing Editor.
- 1972** BVP decides to install 18.5 feet high equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on a 30 feet high platform at New Delhi. Babu Jagjeevan Ram, Defence Minister, lays the foundation stone of the statue.
- 1973** President Shri V.V. Giri unveils the statue in the Tercentenary year of Shivaji's Rajya Abhishek.
- 1974** Dr. LM Singhvi, who joined BVP in 1969, takes over as President of BVP from Lala Hans Raj Gupta. He propounds the four Sutras of BVP – Sampark, Sahyog, Samskar and Sewa.
- 1983 14 August:** First meeting of the National Governing Board is held. Thirty-one members attend it from 9 States.
- 1985** Justice Hans Raj Khanna takes over as President of BVP from Dr. LM Singhvi.
- 1986** BVP decides to conduct training camps for its office bearers in every state every year.
BVP spreads its wings in the South as its branches are opened at Vishakhapatnam, Vijayavara and Hyderabad on 15th, 16th and 17th August respectively.
- 1988** BVP decides to publish NITI on monthly basis.
BVP completes 25 years of its existence, and a function to celebrate Silver Jubilee is held at Delhi. The number of branches touches 100 mark. BVP's activities extend to most of the states.
Three new projects are introduced in BVP
1 Viklang Sahayata. 1 Vanvasi Kalyan. 1 Vikas Saptah.
- 1990** First Viklang Sahayata Kendra is established in Delhi
- 1991** Shri Piara Lal Rahi takes over as Secretary General at the All India Conference held at Udaipur, after the demise of the founder Secretary General Dr. Suraj Prakashji on 2nd February.