

MY INDIA ...A MOVEMENT FOR A DEVELOPED NATION

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It all started with a *lacha* session among few students in BITS hostel. On 12th February, 2005, a notice has come up. It stated – we are determined to change our country's tag from "developing" to "developed", anyone sharing similar ideas, please come to 1211, 8pm. Expectations were low. Maybe ten or fifteen students will show up. Eighty BITSians showed up instead. My INDIA was born.

THE thought was simple – "Let us not blame anyone for the pitiable state of our people, let us start doing something which will ignite a movement in the country's young men and women."

What followed were lots of brainstorming sessions, night outs, ANC sessions, SKY discussions with local rickshawwalahs and finally visits to nearby Bhaans, Raila, Jherli villages.

Four hours of electricity a day, 7-8 children in every home, boys drinking from an age of 8, 135 enrolled in a school and barely 30 kids attending, lack of medical facilities, women dying due to pregnancy problems. The stark realities of Rajasthani villages moved the hearts of our young BITSian warriors.

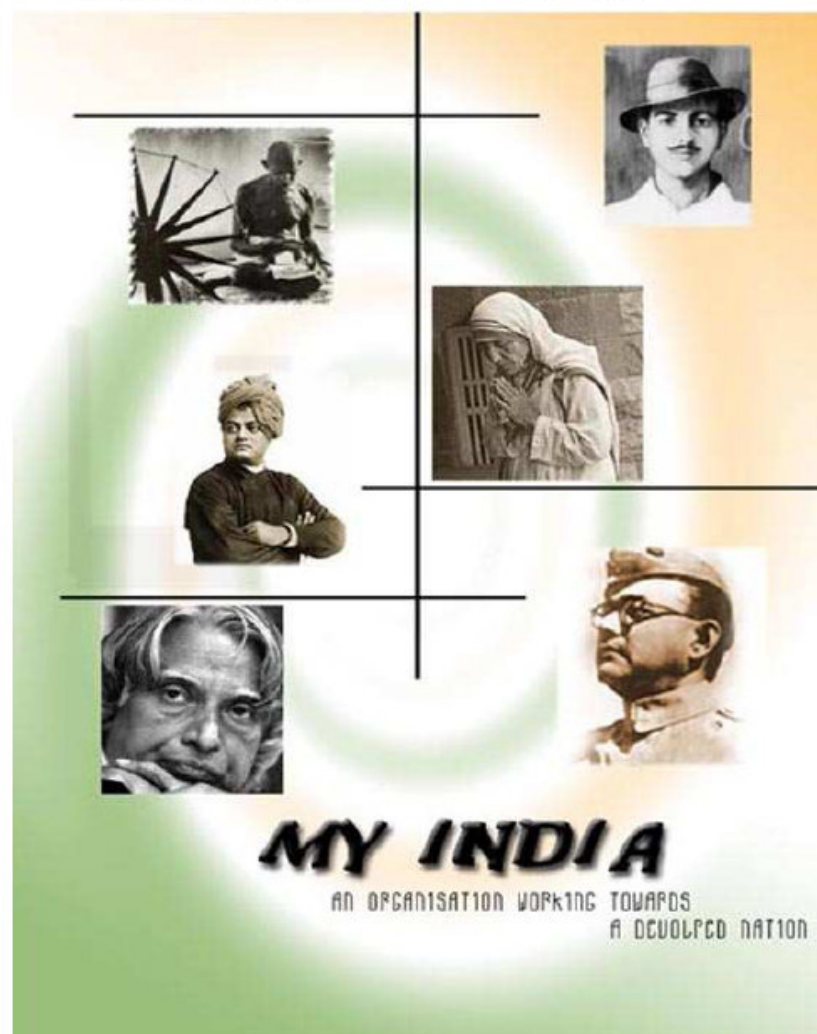
On-going projects...

My INDIA decided to tackle the two major problems in India – illiteracy and poverty by doing projects for Education and Livelihood creation.

Gyan Bodh, Computer literacy programs & Village knowledge centers are the on-going projects under knowledge operations. "Gyan Bodh" is the evening

school run for the under privileged children in different villages Raila, Baans and Gyan Vihar which is just adjacent to the campus. BITSians prepare the teaching material and scientific experiment kits to show them how science works

around them. Computer literacy program is aimed at teaching basics of computers to kids and motivate their pursuit of learning. There are two village knowledge centers in Dandar and Raila, stocked with books for all ages.



Self Help Groups is one of the projects to empower the women financially by starting small-scale businesses. (See insert)

water and power. Stickers with slogans like – “Save Energy, Save Nation” are pasted on all water outlets and electricity boards. “Anti-corruption week” is being planned for

Bhaas and Dhandaar, in Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad, Vijaynagaram, Kakinada and Warangal (NIT)). There is one chapter which is being run in Bangalore and some more are

Gyanbodh	When	Where	No of beneficiaries	No of BITSians involved
	Mar-Apr 2005	Sky Lawns	45	27
	Aug-Nov 2005	Gyan Vihar	50	37
	Jan-Apr 2006	Gyan Vihar	60	38
	Jan-Apr 2006	Raila Village	15	10
	Aug-Nov 2006	Gyan Vihar	50	35
	Aug-Nov 2006	Raila Village	30	15
	Jan-Apr 2007	Gyan Vihar	70	>30
	Jan-Apr 2007	Raila Village	15	>5
	Jan-Apr 2007	Baans Village	60	>15
Village Knowledge Center	When	Where	Distance from campus	Initial investment
	Sep, 2005	Dandar	12 Kms	Rs. 18,640
	Apr, 2006	Raila	3 Kms	Rs. 13,000
Self Help Groups	When	Where	No of rural families involved	Business Activity
	Mar, 2006	Raila	10	Tatia (local Handicrafts sold at Oasis, APOGEE)
	Oct, 2006	Baans	13	Dari (mat) making

Events and Campaigns on campus

To inspire BITSians to join the My INDIA movement, My INDIA hosts events like “Engineering Solutions for Villages – E-sol’V” and “Technovision”. These events drive technology in the direction of rural transformation have excellent inputs both in terms of participation and ideas. My INDIA organized “India Quiz” has become the largest crowd puller during APOGEE.

Besides events, “Energy conservation drive” happens on campus periodically to save

implementation from Aug 15th-22nd, 2007 to increase students’ participation in fighting against corruption.

My INDIA Fire spreads Far and Wide

Started by five BITSians in 2005, My INDIA has now spread its wings to 8 different places in the country, with about 500 dedicated student members reaching out many villagers with different projects for education and employment.

Several chapters of My India are in operation in India; in Rajasthan villages like Raila,

being planned at other places especially BITS-Goa.

The ultimate objective is to spread this movement across the whole country and motivate people, especially the young to give back to their communities.



Future projects in the pipeline

A "Scholars cum Community Service Leaders Program" is being planned for the next academic year to provide scholarships to the meritorious, socially committed but financially distressed students in pursuing their professional degrees. A vocational training centre in the village of Dhandaar in Pilani is also on the cards.

Appeal to Alumni...

Dear Seniors,
This is a humble appeal from your juniors. As you know, millions of Indians are grappling with hunger pangs, remaining uneducated, fighting with life everyday. Who will shoulder the responsibility of transforming the lives of such millions?

You have made our country proud by your achievements in the respective fields. We ask you to join your hands with us to take this movement forward.
Yours truly,
My India Juniors



MY INDIA Team with L.K. Maheshwari, Director, BITS-Pilani during APOGEE 2006



You can support the organization by volunteering or by donating for MY INDIA's projects. For more details, please visit, www.bharatnirmaansankalp.org
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