

## Speech of Hon. Omprakash Kadu ji (BAchhu Bhau), MLA, Founder of "Prahar" Movement



"I will not take names of everyone present here today but we are constantly in touch with Pranavji, Rawatji, Kishorji Desai, Patwardhanji, Sawant ji and Bhaveshji Bhatiya.

I met bhavesh Bhatiya earlier once and Mr Desai who has joined us virtually. It's so beautiful and a wonderful event that we have here today and I hope that this step starts from Maharashtra and reaches to all the other states of this country.

There are few people that we find who do this kind of amazing work. Like a mother does not always find a good son, similarly the people of this country also don't find good leaders. We don't see such good work being done. Even the media of the country is not participating in events like this. Let me tell you what the media does. They came today to take photos and news but did not become part of the event. If not 50%, they should at least show 10% positive news in the media and they really don't care about important news they just need some breaking news and that's the problem. They would show that the house caught fire but not that the house is being built.

Today we have all gathered here to give a very important event to the state. Donating 100 smartphones is not a small thing. What is important is not how many devices we donated but the fact that they have this heart to donate. The number is not important but the thought of giving even one such device is important. "I am a giver" but somehow this thought of giving is what we don't see today much, people want to be takers not the givers. And this program today is the testament of a wonderful thought of 'giving'.

I always say that Until and unless the government's standard and society's thoughts rise, we will not be able to bring about this movement of change that is needed and we will not be able to support those who need it the most. The thought of society must also change. We think of doing Ganapati events, Durga maata events, several religious events are undertaken including people following Islam or Buddhism. But society is forgetting their social responsibility. We spend 5 lakhs for a religious event when we do Pandaals but no one thinks of adopting a blind kid and providing him support for 10 days. This 5 lakhs rupees spent can be used in a right manner if the thought of society changes but that is not happening and that's why we need to work in this direction also.

"Water and thoughts are the same. like river water flows to the well and reaches home which gives us pleasure, similarly the flow of thoughts that has started here today will in true sense reach everybody's home." That's why when I got a call to be a part of this event I accepted it. I love this work. I always say that I am working for you, I don't say you give me a vote because I am working for you. It's my duty to work for you and it's not a matter of politics, it's a matter of

responsibility. This Divyang department that we have in this state is a work of years long fight. We fought, we fought with everyone, we got accused and got several cases in our name but lastly, this nation got its first state that has its separate disability ministry and every year we disburse 5 crores from our own organization for this which is not done in other states.



Yesterday I met one Divyang who complained that they have not received salary for the past three months. In our system All the officials receive their salary by 5th of every month but Divyang those who actually need it get their payments as late as three months. This difference and gap is not acceptable and that's why we are bringing a new system that Divyangjan would get their payments directly in their account without going anywhere on 14th of every month.

I think it would be unfair if I don't mention the name of Mr. Shinde today. At first we fought in a movement alongside 200-300 Divyangjan. People kept asking me why are you doing this when you yourself do not have any disability. I said if you want to be a part of this you can or I will continue to fight for them. This is how we made our way after fighting for 20 years. Our demand was to have the Divyang ministry separate from the social justice ministry. We had a separate ministry for backward classes, tribals, More than 2.5 crores divyang population in this state and we needed this. When the new government was being formed Mr. Eknath Shinde called me to join, my only demand was getting a separate Divyang Ministry or I would not join and he confirmed the same on the phone and that's why I am very much thankful to him and we must all clap for him that he gave this country the first separate Divyang Ministry at state level. Now how this Divyang Ministry should systematically and strategically work is of importance. If Kalangi Saheb, Desai Saheb would join, I am ready to give two days for this. But I think if one village does good for Visually impaired people and kids and senior citizens, then if a district represents itself as a model then not only in Maharashtra but this entire nation will brighten up. For this I am always here as a Volunteer and just call me. I won't come anytime as a MLA but always as a volunteer, a Karyakarta. I will put aside all my work and dates and be a part of this and we sit for two days to discuss how we can work in this direction. If we cannot help cure blindness by corrective measures then what steps can we take for their rehabilitation? I want to discuss this all. If we work on these important things then I think we will represent a very good example of a model district.

Government does not understand where the money should be rightly utilized, which is a major drawback. Like the decoration guy does not know which event he should take, society also does not understand what is important they do Bhagwat saptaah but they should also understand that one event like this should also be done by them. If people come together for this, I on behalf of the CM assure that we would systematically raise funds for this kind of event and when the time comes we would even bring a new law. And we would give Maharashtra events like this which would also be adopted in other states from here.

I am known as Bachhu Kadu the reason being I am good at striking a balance between Bachchu and Kadu and know when I have to be a bacchu (kid) and when I have to be a Kadu (speak bitter). Today I feel so lucky to be a part of this event and be here with all. I don't like going to all the events and staying there but events like this are what I like and stay to be a part of but I apologize as I need to leave halfway from here. I am taking away so much inspiration from here and please always consider me as a Volunteer.”

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***Shri Pranav Desai, Founder of Voice of SAP(VOSAP), USA assured that he would definitely meet with Hon. Omprakash Kadu ji and engage further with him to empower more and more Divyangjan.***

