

## **Brahma Kumaris a spiritual beacon in modern life, say dignitaries**

**Abu Road, March 27:** Lauding the long and committed role of the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishva Vidyalaya in practically demonstrating spirituality, dignitaries from all walks of life congratulated the organisation on completing 80 years of service to humanity.

They were speaking to an audience that included 6,000 prominent guests from the country and abroad who had gathered for the anniversary celebrations at the BK headquarters here. The four-day event was formally inaugurated yesterday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through teleconferencing from the capital.

H.H. Swami Chidanand Swami Saraswati, president of Parmarath Niketan Ashram, said the Brahma Kumaris had shown how the world could be one family. “Chaos does not happen outside; it happens inside of us,” he said, asking everyone to participate in building a culture of trust. He also encouraged everyone in the audience to plant a tree and help save many from diseases by cooperating in building toilets.

BK Karuna, head of multimedia at the Brahma Kumaris, apprised everyone of the latest media collaborations of the organisation that would make available to the public spiritual songs and music. He said Tata Sky had launched a channel to show the daily activities of Brahma Kumaris centres.

BK Marcelo Bulk, Director of the Brahma Kumaris centres in Colombia, said that in the fast-paced urban culture, where the only certainty was uncertainty, the loss of one’s real, spiritual identity was a big crisis. This is where India, with its rich tradition and spiritual heritage, was making a difference by bringing peace and meaning to life. Referring to the decades of war in Colombia, he said: “Peace is not something that you can get by signing a treaty but through deep reflection.”

G.V.S.R. Anjaneyulu, MLA and chairman of Shivshakthi Group, Hyderabad, said that practising Rajyoga meditation taught at the Brahma Kumaris had given him a great deal of internal satisfaction. He said knowledge of peace and happiness could not be received from top universities, but from spiritual organisations like the BK.

Convinced that spirituality had answers to current challenges, Dr. G. Vivekanand, Advisor, Telangana Government, proposed that the Brahma Kumaris work to spread their knowledge in the rural areas of his state.

Applauding the selfless service of the Brahma Kumaris, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, social reformer and writer, said the organisation was working tirelessly for creating a new society.

Anuradha Prasad, Editor-in-Chief, News 24, congratulated the organisation for demonstrating the values of purity and simplicity. She urged the BKs to help in converting *rajniti* (politics) into *rashtraniti* (inclusive governance).

R.C. Raina, CEO, Navgraha TV, said that the Brahma Kumaris had taken woman power forward. He said that to bring about social transformation, the country's education system, politics, and structure of family, religion and spirituality needed to be revamped.

Giving her inspirations, Dadi Ratan Mohini, Joint Chief of the Brahma Kumaris, said spirituality should be manifest in our speech and conduct. "I may consider myself good, but what do others feel from my words and behavior," she said.

Ramesh Mittal, Chancellor, Medi-Caps University, Indore, said the Brahma Kumaris were upholding moral values which, he said, were vanishing fast from society. He requested the institution to seek the government's help and start courses in educational institutions to impart moral education.

Anurag Batra, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief, Business World, said the Brahma Kumaris had done more for others than any other institution in the country. At a time when people were more interested in physical fitness, he said mental disorders were on the rise, and the teachings of the Brahma Kumaris helped build one's mental muscle.

Sankar Laskar, Chief Editor of Asomiya Khabar, published from Guwahati, said that after having visited the Brahma Kumaris campus, he believed he would be able to change his perspective from a material to a spiritual one.

Kanak Sen Deka, Chief Editor of Dainik Agradoot, published from Guwahati, appreciated the work being done by the Brahma Kumaris and drew a parallel between their teachings and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Srimanta Sankardev, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century saint and social reformer from Assam.

Atul Agarwal, Editor-in-Chief of Hindi Khabar, said he had received soul energy in the Brahma Kumaris campus and wondered how everyone here remained happy and every moment seemed to be festive.

Shivani Aggarwal, Channel Head of Pragya TV, said her life had been changed by her association with the Brahma Kumaris, and emphasised on the need to see events and news in a detached manner, without their affecting one's life.

The highlight of the morning session was a 'royal' felicitation of senior members who have played a pivotal role in the Brahma Kumaris' services for several decades.

