

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE BRAHMAKUMARIS AT GURGAON ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2011.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to inaugurate the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya. 75 years is an important milestone in the journey of any organization. Brahma Kumaris is not a religion, but a spiritual fraternity, and with its message of the importance of a spiritually rich life and value-based living, it has touched the lives of thousands of people from all walks of life from different nations, culture, creeds and races. It is, therefore, apt for such an organization to have chosen the theme "One God, One World Family" to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee.

Of course, each individual is an important entity. The collective world that we are building is dependent on individual behaviour. The macrocosm is, hence, a product of microcosm. This again is an ancient truth. Our lives are not isolated islands; rather we are living in close proximity with each other. Each one has to be deeply conscious of the reality, that there will be peace and harmony in our environs, only if there is peace in our minds. For it is then only, that we will seek to live in peace with fellow humans and nature. For communities to live in harmony we need to have human beings, with qualities of love and compassion, who work to create calm and concord.

I have always been a proponent of women's empowerment, as I believe that they have immense potential, and channelizing their energies will build more peaceful societies. A women's intrinsic nature is that of giving and nurturing. These qualities are very important to create stable societies. It is noteworthy that from a small beginning in 1936, the institution of the Brahma Kumaris has emerged as a large organization of its kind, led largely by women working ceaselessly for peace, harmony and universal brotherhood. I congratulate you for this.

I hope that the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations will spread the message of compassion and oneness; and inspire people to build bridges of unity amongst all cultures and creeds. I once again congratulate the Brahma Kumaris on this momentous occasion, and wish them success in achieving the noble vision of creating a world of peace and harmony.

Om Shanti.

JAI HIND!