

## **Salman Khurshid opens 3-Day Grand Finale of Brahma Kumaris Platinum Jubilee**

**Abu Road, October 5:** The grand finale of the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Brahma Kumaris was formally inaugurated today by **Mr. Salman Khurshid, Union Minister for Law, Justice and Minority Affairs**, in the presence of **Nepalese Vice President Parmanand Jha, Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Chief of Brahma Kumaris** and hundreds of delegates from all over the world.

Speaking at the inaugural event at the sprawling Shantivan campus of the Brahma Kumaris, **Mr Khurshid** noted that unlike many religious places, the Brahma Kumaris was an institution open to people of all faiths and everyone should join the task of promoting universal peace and brotherhood being done by this institution.

God, he observed, was an ocean of compassion and love, and the Brahma Kumaris taught how one could return to God and regain the strength that the soul had lost.

Underlining the need for spiritual empowerment, he said India had followed the socialist path for many decades, but that ideology had failed to deliver all that we aspired for. So, we adopted free market policies, but even that had failed to give us all that we wished for. The answer, he said, lay in spirituality.

The Brahma Kumaris, an international non-governmental organization, has completed 75 years of service to humanity. The institution, which today has about 8,700 branches in 137 countries, helps individuals from all walks of life foster their innate virtues so that they can be successful and happy in their personal and professional lives.

The institution had chosen the theme ‘One God, One World Family’ for its platinum jubilee celebrations, and reached out to hundreds of thousands of people through public events held over the past year all over India and abroad, to spread the message that notwithstanding the man-made walls of religion, race, nationality, class, gender and ideology, all human souls were part of one spiritual family by virtue of being children of one God.

In his address, **the Nepalese Vice President**, who **released a souvenir album** showcasing 75 years of services rendered by the Brahma Kumaris worldwide, said at a time when poverty and underdevelopment were causing conflicts all over the world, the values of love, peace and harmony were needed more than ever before.

The tensions and disturbances that man was facing today showed that mere physical well-being was insufficient, and efforts for world peace could not succeed without spirituality, he said. “We need to strike a balance between spirituality and material progress,” he said.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates, B.K. Mruthyunjay, Executive Secretary, Brahma Kumaris, said the institution had a vision to make India crime-free, disease-free and corruption-free in 25 years by bringing about a change in people’s mentality, spreading peace and goodwill, and by helping individuals overcome negative traits such as anger. The institution was confident of achieving this goal by spreading the message that the whole world was one family, since all humans were spiritual children of one God.

In her blessings, **Rajyogini Dadi Janki, the Head of the Brahma Kumaris**, said there was no comfort in the hearts of people today, and everyone was restless. Today's world was a world of sin, she said, and urged the audience to neither give sorrow nor take sorrow. "Remember, I am one and belong to one God, Almighty. I am not ordinary, God has chosen me to play my pre-destined role of doing good to the self and to human society," she said.

"If you have to make your life valuable like a diamond, give value to time and thoughts who will protect you in hours of need. Do not waste these," she concluded.

Chairing the occasion, Rajyogi Ramesh Shah, Addl. Secretary General of the Brahma Kumaris institution called for coordinated and concerted efforts of scientists, spiritualists, political and religious leaders to build better life and better world one universal deity culture and civilization on earth. That will be the golden age for restoration of which the Brahma kumaris are making efforts.

Speaking from his personal experience of how the institution was changing the world by helping individuals achieve self-transformation, **B.K. Neville Hodgkinson, a writer and journalist from Oxford, U K** who is a regular member of the Brahma Kumaris, said his association with the institution had taught him to use his inner resources to achieve positive change. This was the way to bring about change in the world, he said.

While **Rajyogini B K Jayanti, Director of Brahma Kumaris' European Centers** conducted Mass Meditation for the august gathering, child artists from Nepal enthralled the audience with their soul stirring cultural presentations.

The grand finale of the year-long celebrations, being held from October 4 to 8 at the sprawling Shantivan campus of the Brahma Kumaris, **began last evening with Nepalese Vice President Paramanand Jha opening an exhibition showcasing the history of the institution and the services rendered by it over the years.**

This was followed, in the Reception Session last evening, by a march past by members of the institution from across the world, with contingents from various countries walking through the cavernous Diamond Hall, which can seat 20,000 people. They were followed by marching groups from each of the 19 wings of the institution that serve different sections of society, and groups from the different states of India in their regional attire.

**Mr. Subhash Ghai, the famous Bollywood producer and director**, in his address in the Reception Session last evening, said the work that the Brahma Kumaris were doing was commendable and crucial. There was need to spread spirituality in society. The values that ancient sages preached needed to be preserved and practiced, he said, adding that this was what he attempted to do through entertainment mode in his films.