

National Launching of ‘Ahimsa Paramo Dharma’ Campaign in New Delhi

“No religion is complete without non-violence” – Dr. Yoganand Shastri

New Delhi, December 12: The year-long **All India Awareness Campaign on ‘Ahimsa Paramo Dharma (Non-Violence the Highest Conduct)’** organised by the Brahma Kumaris organisation in collaboration with The Times of India Group at the Satya Sai International Centre Auditorium on the most special date of the century 12-12-12.

Addressing as **Chief Guest, Delhi Assembly Speaker Dr Yoganand Shastri**, commended the Brahma Kumaris for taking up this subject for campaign when human beings had made self destructive nuclear weapons that could destroy the world many times over. He said: **“No religion is complete without non-violence, and this value has been at the core of all Indian religions.”**

Interspersing his speech with anecdotes and examples from the history, he said that men like Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha and Swami Vivekananda were fearless and most revered by both friends and enemies because they had practised and attained complete non-violence in their lives.

Rajyogi BK Brij Mohan, Chief Spokesperson of the Brahma Kumaris speaking about the Aim of the Campaign said that indulgence in five vices which leads to violation of basic values, principles and laws of life and nature is violence. Overcoming inner vices through spiritual empowerment will enable us to live in love and harmony with self, fellow beings and nature around. The campaign, he said, aimed at throwing light on such issues and to promote the tenets of non-violence which is supreme righteous conduct, among people all over India.

Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patsani, MP Lok Sabha, speaking as **Guest of Honor** said that anger leads to violence which is a sin while non-violence dwells in silence, pure and positive thoughts and expressed in the language of peace, love and harmony.

Ms. Namita Joshi, Senior Editor of Navbharat Times, said: “People’s hatred and anger are coming out in the society as physical violence. It is even spilling over to our social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.” She said non-violence was possible only if we treat such negativities in our mind. On behalf of the Times group she invited everyone to make Ahimsa their foremost religion.

Mrs. Kiran Mehra, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in India, lamented that though we all know the worth and accomplishment of non-violence we all become prone to violence. She echoed the recent message by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in which he said that it was the duty of both the government and the people, including teachers, parents, religious leaders and others to sow the seed and develop the culture of non-violence. **She complimented the Brahma Kumaris organisation becoming the “natural partners” of the United Nations to achieve the goal of non-violence.**

BK Asha, Director of Om Shanti Retreat Centre in Gurgaon, explained that violence is much more deep-seated and spread than its physical forms. “Suppressing the conscience, compromising on values, thinking evil of others and speaking harsh words are all nothing but forms of violence.”

Rabbi E.I. Malekar, priest and secretary of Judah Hayam Synagogue, said: “We do not want a transient peace like ceasefire. We need long lasting peace.” He emphasised that ahimsa is value for self protection rather than an expression of weakness or vulnerability.

Under this All India Campaign, several Conferences, Seminars, Dialogues, Exhibitions, Shivirs and Yatras will be organised throughout the country by over 8000 Brahma Kumaris centers in association with like minded organisations.