

Press Release

“No Religion Teaches Hatred & Violence. Bring Back Sanity & Spread Spiritual Values to Contain Violence ”--Mr Pranab Mukherjee

Ahimsa Paramo Dharma Campaign Launched from President's House

New Delhi, Sept. 21: Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of India said that no religion had ever taught hatred and violence. All religious prophets had always practiced and preached love, compassion and selfless services.

He said that “no civilization is safe when the daughters, mothers and sisters in family and society are not protected. We have to sit back, reset our compass and bring back sanity to our life and society to end the current spate of violence in India.”

He said that not mere enactment of law nor the force of governance can put an end to violence but collectively cultivating and spreading the spiritual values of peace, understanding, tolerance, self control, discipline and determination can contain violence.

He said this **while launching the “All India Ahimsa Paramo Dharma Awareness Campaign” jointly being started by the Brahma Kumaris institution and various inter-faith groups, from Rastrapati Bhavan here today.** He commended the efforts of the Brahma Kumaris and various interfaith leaders for taking such noble initiative of sensitizing people and mobilizing collective support against violence in all forms.

Addressing an august gathering of about hundred gentry and opinion leaders from diverse backgrounds of religion, spirituality, sociology, jurisprudence, media and women organizations, Mr Mukherjee said that tolerance of violence has beget more violence and it is time that all religious, spiritual and interfaith leaders along with other government and non-governmental organizations should join hands to work for ending the evils of violence.

Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Chief of Brahma Kumaris blessing the occasion with her words of wisdom said that a culture of peace, harmony and non-violence can be created through cultivation of truth, love, purity, patience and perseverance. For attaining this, she called for consistent practice and promotion of spiritual knowledge, human values and raj-yoga meditation.

Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Asha, Main Coordinator of the Campaign Committee ascribing violence in any form as a threat to peace and progress of individuals and society said that the Campaign aimed to provide a common platform for all concerned to make concerted efforts to curb the menace of growing violence in society with the ultimate objective of working for a violence free society.

Enumerating its basic objectives, she said that the Campaign would **organize sensitization and training programs for families, students and citizens** to create violence free and women friendly environment; to conduct **comprehensive survey** to get suggestions and support for the campaign; to help implementation of **value education & character building** programs; to enlist

the services of media, likeminded individuals & institutions for promoting non-violence and to support '**Ahimsa Messenger**' Project launched by Govt. of India.

Dr Dominic Emanuel, Spokesman, Delhi Catholic Archdiocese urged to overcome evils and violence through goodness & love while **Mr B N Das, Vice-President of ISKCON** called for cultivation of divine virtues like truth, peace and compassion as antidotes to violence.

Mr Mohd. Iqbal Mulla, Secretary, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind said that killing and violence in any form including female feticide were crimes against mankind & God, **Mr R. Sumiththananda, Bhikkhu-in-Charge, Mahabodhi Society of India** pledged full support to this Campaign which he described as a noble initiative to spread the spirit and culture of peace, love and non-violence in the country.

Prominent among other interfaith leaders who also offered their greetings on the occasion were **Dr A K Merchant from Bahai Community** and **Mr E I Malekar, Priest & Secretary, Judah Hyam Synagogue, New Delhi.**

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