

Massive Turnout at Hindu rally

MANGALORE: *Anti-Hindu forces trying to weaken dharma through terrorism and religious conversions, have no place in the country, declared the seers here on Sunday.*

Dharma Rakshana Vedike convener Shree Rajashekaranda Swamiji of Vajradehi Mutt *administered oath to the 70,000-strong gathering at the Hindu Samajotsava 2009,* organised by the Dharma Rakshana Vedike at Nehru Maidan, *pledged to oppose terrorism, religious conversions, untouchability and foster brotherhood among Hindus to realise the 'Hindu Samrajya.' Seers at the venue without mincing words urged the Hindus to vote for those political parties which fight for their rights.*

Gurudevananda Swamiji of Odiyoor Mutt asked Hindus to flex their muscles through such samajotsavas to prove their vigilance. Ramananda Swamiji of Kolya Mutt said that India's identity as a 'Hindu country' should be protected. Mohandas Swamiji of Manila Mutt regretted that Hindus were refugees in their own country. Vidyaprasanna Swamiji of Subramanya temple and Yoganandaswamy of Nithyananda Ashram urged the youths to shoulder the responsibility of protecting the Hindu culture.

Dharmapalnath Swamiji of Anegundi Mutt said: *''The massive convention is a warning bell to anti-Hindus.''* In a colourful example, he said just as residents wear cotton clothes in desert-like conditions and woollen in cold places, the Hindu dharma must be accepted by others for peaceful co-existence.

'Govt must commemorate 500-years of Vijaynagar empire'

Shree Vishwasha Teertha Swamiji of Pejavar Mutt compared the convention to a 'Vishwaroopa Darshana'. He clarified that the convention was not against minorities or politicians and urged the politicians not to divide the society as Hindus and minorities.

VHP general secretary Surendra Kumar Jain said that those who continue to insult Hindus and their deities have no place not only in Mangalore but also in India. ''This Samajotsava is a strong message to anti-Hindu forces opposing the Act which ban cow slaughter and declaring Rama Sethu as a national monument,'' Jain said.

"Terrorism is the biggest threat to India. Just as Shivaji fought Atankavadhis, the Vijayanagara empire waged a relentless campaign against the Jehadis," he said.

He further said that this year being the 500th year of Vijayanagar empire, the state government must publicise the empire's message state-wide and the VHP would spread it in the remaining parts of the country. *He lashed out at the secularists who coined the word 'Hindu athankavadi' in a bid to secure the Muslim votes.*

Shree Swasthi Charukeerthi Bhattarak Swamiji of Moodbidri Jain Mutt and Sadhvi Mathanandamaye also spoke. VHP leader Prof M B Puranik welcomed the gathering.

Advocate P P Hegde who had filed a case against Union Minister Renuka Chowdhury, was welcomed in public by Shree Rajashekaranda Swamiji.

By Express News Service *

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