

Fourth Summit of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha at Hyderabad - Press Releases

Hyderabad, January 10, 2010

The Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha has made a fervent appeal for promotion of Spiritualism rather than secularism as the basis communal harmony and peaceful co-existence between all castes and communities in the country.

Briefing newsmen on the second day proceedings of the ongoing 4th summit of Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha at Hyderabad, Swami Tatvavidananda Saraswatiji,

its spokesman, said that spiritualism in all religious schools and thoughts should become preamble of communal harmony rather than the volatile concept of secularism which had led to many misgivings, misinterpretations and misuse of power for political gains.

He said the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha made a case for promotion of spiritualism to replace secularism in the country to achieve more cohesive and fruitful coming together of all religions, faiths and communities in the country.

He said Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Convenor of the summit had made a case for ushering of the common civil code in the country, which had not made much progress though it was assured when the Indian constitution adapted fifty years ago. It was high time that the government paid attention to introducing a common civil code to ensure that all were equal before law.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati also demanded that minority status should be decided on the basis of the ethnic groups and not on the

basis of religion .He said such a categorization on the basis of religious practices led to breeding of hostilities and animosities between small and big religious groups.

Swami Tatvavidananda said the Acharya Sabha had decided to set up legal cells at all state levels to take up cases of threats to Hindu religion at every level. We laud the efforts of Dr Subramanya Swamy whose efforts had thrown light on the formation of a bank on religious lines in Kerala and was effectively stopped, he said. He said Dr Subramanya Swamy had been made the advisor of the legal cells to be set up at apex level. The successful intervention of the Supreme Court in protection of Rama Setu had been possible due to Dr. Swamys service in this regard, the Sabah noted.

He said earlier His Holiness Shankaracharya of Dwaraka had highlighted the elegance of Veda to modern living and also the significance of AuM mantra in removing stress and pressures in day to day life.

Swami said that it has been decided to promote a Hindu cell in the parliament within one year under the stewardship of Sr. Ashok Singhal ji and Dr Subramanya Swamy. It is an irony and sad thing that while all other religions had their own cells in the parliament, there was no Hindu cell in spite of the fact that it was a religious faith followed by over 85 percent of the population in the country.

The Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha also demanded that the Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu should be handed over back to the public management

by devotees and condemned its take over by the government authorities. Similarly all steps should be taken to hand over the encroached lands and properties of the Hathiramji Mutt at Tirumala back to the present management of the Mutt.

The Sabha also expressed its thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by the forum for Religious freedom of US for recognizing the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha and its activities to help Hindus and also promote the message of Hinduism.

Swami Tatvavidananda said the Sabha also appreciated Swami Dayananda Saraswati for his unique service in education sector through the All India Movement for Seva. The six-year-old organization has set up 80 hostels for poor and tribal children all over the country of which 18 were in Andhra Pradesh including one at Hyderabad.

The Hindu dharma Acharya Sabha also decided on the need to promote Sanskrit on par with Hindi and other languages in the country. Only in Gujarat and Uttarakhand, Sanskrit was taught up to 5th standards. Sanskrit was taught even in Great Britain but in India, it lacked patronization.

Swami Tatvavidananda said the government should extend patronization to Hindus to take up Kalaisnath and Amaranth yatras on the lines of yatras for Haj and Jerusalem. Both the Centre and State governments should provide subsidies and patronize yatras for Hindus within the country if not abroad. Medical facilities are very much needed for all pilgrims to Kailasnath and Amaranth which should be subsidized by the Governments, he said.

He made a case for campaign against religious conversions and that people should be given liberty of to choose the religion and faith they wished to follow on their own. He said proselytisation of any sort was not welcome and should not be tolerated

Swami Tatvavidananda said the summit of Acharya Sabha will deliberate and pass resolutions on various burning issues of the Hindu society tomorrow, the last day of the summit.

Press release No-3

Image gardens,
Hyderabad, January 10, 2010:

The three day long fourth summit of the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha is being held at Hyderabad with the objective of exchange of information, ideas and socio-economic activities among Acharyas and Pontiffs of religious institutions in the country.

Govind Hari, core committee member of the Sabha said the goal was to inculcate in poor Hindu families, greater self esteem and pride of belonging to the Hindu religion and culture, and focus on community service by providing common public utilities to community buildings like solar energy devices, drinking water provisions and village sanitation services as part of the socio-economic program by drawing resources from government agencies.

He said the Acharya Sabha trust also laid down a road map for involvement with the society and community by providing -

- Sanskrit spoken practice in some schools run by Mathas/Peethas and temples.
- Management and rejuvenation of public temples small and neglected and almost derelict institutions outside endowment act.
- Better management of festivals and pilgrimages make them accident free-better environment - Sabha to organize devotees to take up such activity.
- Organize discourses by eminent Hindu personalities in temples on serious religious topics along with music concerts and other cultural programs.

- Organize discourses by Acharyas at public places to spread awareness among public to give up harmful and outdated rituals and practices.

N V S S Prabhakar, another core committee member said the summit also discussed on the need to set up an academic institute of Hindu heritage studies and research. He said focus is on setting right the wrong interpretations and writing by westerners on Hindu culture and practices. Sabha, through a trust, proposed to set up an institution to begin on a professional manner.

Prabhakar said nearly 160 acharyas, pontiffs and heads of Mutts and religious institutions including Ashok Singhal of VHP and Dr. Subramanya Swamy participated in the debates, which focused on the future course of patronization and practice of Hindu religion.

He said nearly 100 volunteers from the Hindu community were rendering service for the smooth and successful conduction of the summit by supervising- catering, accommodation, transport, food, security, internet and administration, medicare and other services

Press release No-4
Hyderabad, January 11:

His Holiness Swami Dayanada Saraswati, convener of the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha said today that the apex body of Hindu religious practices has decided to set up Shanmuga Academy of Arts, Science and Technology at Thanjavur in Tamilnadu to promote studies and research in Hindu heritage.

Addressing newsmen on the concluding day of the fourth summit of the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha he said the Sabha also resolved that the smaller temples alienated from the endowment department and should be handed over to the devotees for

conduct of regular rituals and for public maintenance.

Nearly 160 acharyas, Mathadhipathis, heads of religious institutions etc participated in the three day session of the 4th summit of the Sabha held at Hyderabad since Saturday and deliberated on the future course of action for preservation and protection of the Hindu religions from the challenges of conversions, terrorism and also suppression by the government agencies.

Swami Tatvavidananda and Swami Paramatmananda Saraswati and others assisted Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The Acharyas accepted a volley of queries from the media on various aspects of Hinduism and practices and challenges before it.

He clarified that the issue of Ayodhya was not discussed at the summit. However the Sabha held the view that Rama temple should be built at the site at the earliest. During his discourse on Saturday, he said he had referred to legislation in the offing in Karnataka under Supreme Court direction for management of a temple. "I had only meant that such a legislation could become a role model for all temple disputes ", he said.

Swami Dayananda Saraswati condemned Conversions of religions as an human rights violation and demanded that it should be curbed and put down. Conversion is violence against human rights of an individual, he said, and added that it was violence against culture, human values and religion. "The government should protect the human rights of every individual and curb such religious conversions", he added.

He said the Sabha took strong exception to the reference to Hinduism in the Encyclopedia Britannica in the article of Ms. Wendy Doniger as damaging, derogative, hurting Hindu sentiments and painful to Hindus. He said the same author had made similar attempts to damage the Hindu

religion long ago in the N-Kart, a web publication and was stoutly condemned by Hindus across the world.

Swami appealed to the publishers of the Encyclopaedia Britannica to withdraw and remove all such comments. "Pl allow a credible Hindu scholar to script any article on Hinduism for your esteemed publication", he said, and added that the Sabha has been authorized by the Pontiffs of all regions to legally proceed against the Publishers if the corrections were not made forthwith immediately.

The Spokesman of the Sabha also said the author had also described Indian deities and gods in a lustful, derogatory, lustful manner. Such writing about Indian religious icons and wrong interpretation of Indian philosophy is very unbecoming and unwarranted.

It was also mentioned at the media conference that a Hindi writer of Andhra Pradesh had pasteurized Draupadi in a scurrilous, lustful and derogatory manner. The scurrilous book written by Dr. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad of Andhra Pradesh chapter of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachara Sabha ironically has won the National Sahitya Academy award as well, the Sabha noted and cautioned that it will proceed legally against it and sought that the be withdrawn for the book.

He also condemned the practices and rituals which subjected women folk to pain and hardships including the practice of dowry. We regard women as Matro devo bhava and as such she should be respected and upheld in the society and not subjected to any abuse or hardships; he said.

Answering questions, the Convener of the Acharya Sabha took objection to the word terrorist either Islamic or Hindu. Van a terrorist is a religious person and we should respect all religions. H is a martyr and it is the media, which has been labeling religious personalities in their own fashion.

Asked about threats to Hinduism, he said not only other religions even the Government agencies were targeting Hinduism. While the government has controlled the TTD administration, can it touch the management of the Wakf and the Christian missionary organizations and properties which are enjoyed by a select few? He demanded that religious institutions be left to their own and government kept away from interfering in religious matters.

Swami Dayanada Saraswati said the Sabha has been holding dialogues with the Jews successfully and that God was only one in both the religions. He said such dialogues were also continued with the Russian Orthodox Church for better understanding of the religious practices and philosophy. Soon we will also firm up agreements with them for a common religious paths, he said.

Swami said that last the Hindu Dharma Raksha Manch also tried to hold talks with the Islamic clergys and written to all the 13 Ulemas on the need to condemn terrorism on Indian soil and urged them to pass a fatwas against religious terrorism of all sorts. "We are still awaiting their response", he said.

He said the outcome of the fourth summit was very fruitful and all the Acharyas and pontiffs were happy over the outcome and they also reviewed the action taken on the decisions of the earlier summits and also approved an action plan laid out to take Hindu religion to the door steps of the people and also promote awareness and heritage of Hinduism among all sections of the society.

Govind Hari and N V S S Prabhakar, the coordinators and members of the core committee of the Hindu Dharma Acharya Sabha thanked the media for their cooperation in covering the proceedings of the fourth summit of the HDAS.