

Prime Minister Modi addresses the Brahma Kumaris

Introduction

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary celebrations of Brahma Kumaris in Shantivan, Rajasthan, India, Prime Minister Modi addressed the assembled people via a video link. Below is a transcript of his speech which makes several references to the Brahma Kumaris efforts to generate solar power.

PM Speech Translation

My cordial greetings to the members of Brahma Kumaris Institution and to all participants who came across from national and foreign lands to attend the International Cultural Conference, Om shanti. It is a matter of deep pride that Brahma Kumaris movement has successfully completed 80 years of existence and is surely a proud moment for the divine soul of Dada Lekh Raj Ji, Founder of Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. He has given an institutional structure to the organization and has given an immense contribution in empowering women. It is a popular trend all around the globe to celebrate 25 years, 50 years or 100 years in the form of jubilees. In India, a time cycle of 80 years holds a special importance. When a person or an organisation completes 80 years of its lifespan, it is considered as Sahastra Chandra Darshan Parva, which signifies that a person or institution has experienced full moon one thousand times.



Founded with the gigantic efforts of Dada Lekh Raj ji, today Brahma Kumaris Institution is at an extraordinary stage of Sahastra Chandra Darshan. On this occasion, I wish the institution to continue to progress in its mission of spreading peace and universal brotherhood with a fresh breeze of enthusiasm. Yesteryear, Dada Janki has turned a hundred years of age. I pay my heartfelt gratitude to Dadiji for blessing us all like a true Karmyogi even till today. After two days, we will be celebrating the festival of Cheti Chaitra. In India, we celebrate Samvatsar. I pay my heartily greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Nav Samvatsar and Cheti Chand.



I have been fortunate to visit your organization and experience unconditional love many times. 80 years is a big time span for any organization. In present times, it is often noticed that any group or institution begins to form groups, dissolves or breaks apart in around 15-20 years. It is truly a nurturing of Dada Lekh Raj's dedication and values that even after 80 years of its origin Brahma Kumaris is consistently working towards universal harmony and brotherhood through their spiritual knowledge. Millions of your followers are working in spiritual and humanitarian dimensions in every nook and corner of the world and I felicitate you all for this.

It's my good fortune to be in your close proximity, understanding divine intellects and to inherit divine virtues from you. Due to a busy schedule, I cannot mark my presence on this auspicious occasion. I am glad to meet you all through this medium of video conferencing. Brahma Kumaris impose peculiar work procedures and today we have witnessed one of them. You have felicitated me through the medium of light which I am watching on TV Screen. The institution is making constant efforts to disseminate the knowledge worldwide under the paramount leadership of Dada Lekh Raj and Dadi ji in the same manner as you tried to spread the light by switching a torch.

Brahma Kumaris everlasting efforts stands testimony to peculiarity of nation. India is a country with nerves of steel to say God is One. God is worshipped differently in each religion and many parts of the world. They believe God has different forms, that's not our contemplation. Since ancient times our scriptures and holy man have rendered the knowledge of 'Ekumsat Vipra Bahua Vadanti' meaning Truth is one, Sages call it in different ways.

It is a proud moment for me to know about inaugural ceremony of a Solar Power Project held today at Shantivan Complex. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to observe all the activities of your hospital located in Shantivan and the medical services offered to underprivileged. It's my pleasure to relive the fact that Brahma Kumaris took an initiative to adopt renewable sources like solar energy many years ago for carrying out various day to day activities in your complex. This is an organization which has adopted modes of solar energy at the time when the issue of global warming was not much talked about. This is an impeccable example of working with optimism and futuristic approach. The initiatives taken by your organization is bringing out a new revolutionary change for a better future. With the power of positive thoughts and self-determination, man can achieve new heights and your initiative to produce 3 megawatts of solar energy will be a milestone in this direction.

Earlier we took a solar power initiative in neighbouring state Gujarat, under which governments from all Indian states were encouraged to design different modules based on solar power. Now Shantivan has also joined the league for protection of environment. It is a great initiative through which meals for 38 thousand persons can be cooked everyday by using solar energy. Apart from that, your mission to promote solar energy by encouraging use of solar lantern, home lightening systems, cooking boxes etc will bring a new change in the society at large. The organization has made continuous attempts not only to augment spirituality but has also set an example for bringing about a change and transforming lives of the poor.

At present, Global warming is one of the major challenge faced by many countries of the world, including India. It is our goal to achieve 40 percent of the required energy through non-fossil fuel and conventional sources by year 2030. After 75 years of independence, the need of hour is to undertake initiatives based on renewable sources of energy. We aim at a grand target of producing 175 Giga watt of energy using conventional resources.

If Government, society and organizations continue to move forward in the same direction, it will be a big step in conservation of nature, serving the mankind and almighty authority. I felicitate Brahma Kumaris for undertaking appreciable initiatives for conservation of nature. In Indian culture trees are considered sacred and holds a special importance. We are tirelessly working towards conservation of nature through various initiatives like Harit Kranti, Dughdh Kranti and Urja Kranti and I would like to congratulate you all for supporting these initiatives. Indian government has set an initiative to place around twenty-two crore LED bulbs in municipal corporation offices, state government offices and households in order to cut off an approximate expenditure of 11 thousand crores.

There are around 8500 Brahma Kumaris centres and millions of followers. All BK brothers and sisters can create an awareness about usage of LED bulb to bring a change in the lives of common man. Earlier an LED bulb costed around 400-500 rupees but today it costs around 50 to 70 rupees. Therefore, this initiative can also be clubbed with various initiatives run by BKWSU. At present, we are dependent on non-conventional sources of energy like diesel and petrol. These sources are imported from foreign countries, on a very high expenditure. By adopting conventional sources of energy like wind energy, hydro energy and solar energy. This expenditure can be cut off and used for empowering the poor. Your comprehensive contribution in this regard is highly appreciated. As per ancient Indian scriptures, exploiting nature is a crime.

The Brahma Kumaris motto- One god one world family is also contemplation of our country. The ancient concept of Vasudev Kutumbkam or universal brotherhood traces its origins in India. Our nation is endeavoured for justice, dignity and prosperity. Protecting the nature through medium of International Solar alliance is another recognizable outcome of India's initiatives towards conservation of nature. The nation got independence 75 years ago and it is duty of every citizen to work towards development of the nation and fulfilling dreams of all those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

In the past few days, we took a major step to demolish pillars of corruption and black money from Indian economy through the process of demonetization. Digital technique forms an important aspect of this revolution. Implementation of cashless transaction methodology will empower the entire system. I request all Brahma Kumaris brothers and sisters to encourage small and medium level entrepreneurs for making cashless transaction through the medium of BHIM Application, accessible on mobile phones. Today I joined you through the medium of technology, and have a firm faith that this organization will be a vital element in betterment of the country through a revolutionary transformation.

Brahma Kumaris mission has an active involvement of Brahma Kumari sisters along with Brahma Kumar brothers. In present times, a large number of children of our country are deprived of vaccination, resulting in high infant mortality rate due to fatal diseases. There are a number of alarming situations like high infant- mother mortality rate and malnutrition. Under Indradhanush vaccination scheme, Indian government aim at providing vaccination

to children in every house hold. Through this platform, I would like to encourage Brahma Kumaris to volunteer their services in saving lives of millions of children, serving the mankind a large scale with their involvement in various vaccination programs.

I hereby insist Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University to design an online certification course on the subject of nutrition. There is a lot of unawareness about nutrition, adequate intake of food and healthy food habits among Indian population. Can you start this movement in collaboration with other universities of India, in order to eradicate the problem of malnutrition from Indian societies? Brahma Kumaris, a mission with a massive involvement and active participation of women can be a major contribution in this regard. I request you to formulate strategies in this direction and assure all possible assistance from Government of India for this project. It is important for young girls studying in 9 to 12 standards to be educated about nutrition. You can play a vital role in transforming their lives in the best possible manner.

Government of India has formulated various schemes and programs for women empowerment. Earlier a maternity leave of 12 weeks was granted to working women class of nation. The initial days are crucial for new-borns as well as mother. We are pleased to inform you that now the period of maternity leave has been extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks as the proximity of mother put a deep impact on a child's health. With this India has joined the league of very few nations who grant a maternity leave for a period of 26 weeks to working women. Till today even the strong economies of the world does not grant a maternity leave of 26 weeks and India has taken a big step in empowering women by granting working women a maternity leave for 26 weeks. Empowering women can create a new wave of energy and pace for towards development and prosperity of the nation. Government of India has started various schemes for women like Sukanya Samridhi Yojna, Financial assistance to pregnant women, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Yojana. Ujjwala yojna is one of the latest developments under this category. Women from poor sections of the society used earthen cook stove for preparing the meals, which produces a heavy amount of smoke from burning of wood. As per medical health reports a woman inhale smoke equal to that of smoke produced by 400 cigarettes in a day affecting not only health of women but also children playing nearby. Keeping the hazardous consequences in mind, Government of India has started an initiative for providing LPG gas connections to the poor sections of the society. Since past ten months we have provided around 2 crore LPG connections and aim to achieve a target of providing new connections to 3 crore poor families in next three years.

We are constantly working in the direction of women empowerment and active participation of Brahma Kumaris volunteers can be a vital component in this regard. Protecting the nature, empowering women, bringing a positive change in lives of children are some of the important fidelities. I marked my presence on the occasion of 80th anniversary through technology and have a firm belief that Brahma Kumaris mission is a

light house in spiritual dimensions and welfare of the society. Founded by Dada Lekh Raj Ji, Brahma Kumaris movement is embarking a new wave of energy in the world.

In spite of being 100 years of age, Dadiji's hard work is a true motivation for the younger generations and will inspire them to work with utmost enthusiasm and determination. Dada Janki has also been ambassador of Swatch Bharat Abhiyan. I believe that you all Brahma Kumars and Brahma Kumaris will continue to support us for Swatch Bharat Abhiyan. We have a long way to go and should aim at reaching our goals by year 2022. I have been a part of celebrations today and faithfully appeal you to contribute in some of our initiatives. Being Inspired with purity, your strong capabilities, manpower and determination enhances the probability of achieving the desired goals. I look forward to seeking your support in creating a happy and prosperous world.

Once again, I congratulate you all on this auspicious occasion of 80 anniversary of Brahma Kumaris. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of the celebrations. Om Shanti Om Shanti Om Shanti.