

World Brahman Convention 2007, Corwne Plaza Hotel, Secaucus, New Jersey, USA
Press Release (July 16, 2007)

The World Brahman Federation (WBF) has concluded its World Brahman Convention 2007 in Secaucus, New Jersey, USA. This event was held from July 6 to 8, 2007, and was attended by delegates from all over the world. A large delegation representing several states of India arrived on July 6, 2007 at the Crowne plaza Hotel at Secaucus, New Jersey, after visiting various Brahman communities across USA. At the convention, several sessions were held on challenges that the community is facing all over the world including India, and deliberations led to development of an action plan to ameliorate the current situation.

Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Women's Commission of India, delivered the keynote address in which she emphasized the need for Brahmans to become the agents of change. She emphasized the need for protection of women from fraudulent marriages with NRIs. Mr. Nirmal Choubey, the President of World Brahman Federation, announced the formation of a Committee headed by Ms. Ranjana Pathak, Vice President of Endo Pharmaceutical, to look into women's issues with Mr. Ashok Trivedi, CEO iGate Corporation; and Mr. Upendra Chivukula, Deputy Chairman of New Jersey state legislature, as members of the committee. Mr. Trivedi, in his address, highlighted how knowledge based economy is benefiting the whole world. Mr. Chivukula spoke about the need to preserve our heritage, and called for governments to support such efforts within secularism. He was lauded for his efforts to introduce Hindu prayers to the New Jersey state legislature.

Pandit Mange Ram Sharma, President WBF India, led the delegation from India that also included eminent Brahman leaders Shri Ganga Sahay Pathak, Senior Vice-President WBF India, Dr. Shankar Bhardwaj, MLA, Dr. Asha Sharma and Shri Dharni Dhar Trivedi among others.

Shri Sanjay Tripathi, the Convention Director, welcomed the delegates on the occasion and presented the holy scarf in a spiritual and ambient atmosphere. The audience was enthralled by the chants of 'Bhagwan Parshu Ram'. World famous Kathak dancer Purnima Jha performed on the occasion.

Professor Rama Nath Sharma, in his inaugural address, gave scriptural analysis of the concept of Brahmana and its identity. Dr. Mahesh Prasad Kasinadhuni gave an inspirational address on Brahminical philosophy. Dr. M G Prasad discussed the need for educating the younger generation and development of a program along with Prof. Sharma. A plenary session was held on the women issues, and several break out sessions dealt with issues related to challenges of a secular society and the plight of Kashmiri pundits. Sessions were also held on health, finance and entrepreneurship.

The discussion at the convention led to the resolution that all Brahmans should come together regardless of region, rituals and languages. Further, they asked for financial aid

to weaker sections of the society based on a well defined economic criteria. Shri R. S. Goswami, General Secretary of WBF India and Honorary Secretary of Bar Council of Delhi emphasized the need for networking among Brahmans all over the world to help each other in the best interest of the community. He said efforts must be made to generate employment for Brahman youth in India and abroad.

The convention delegates unanimously passed the following resolutions after a prolonged and thoughtful discussion:

- a. The Indian Government should enforce merit based society and economically weaker sections should be provided with financial support based on defined criteria. In today's globalized world, merit alone without any caste consideration can help Indians compete throughout the world.
- b. The WBF should form a core group to influence leadership of all political parties to put Brahman candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in 2009. Similarly, the political parties must put Brahman candidates in assembly elections all over India as and when elections are held.
- c. The Government of India must not disenfranchise people from the right to contest elections from anywhere in India by reserving constituencies for special interest groups. All the reserved constituencies should be made open to all contestants or these must be rotated to permit equity for contesting elections by the general public. In any democracy around the world, those with a right to vote also have a right to contest the elections.
- d. The Government of India would be asked to develop the pilgrimage sites for international tourism with support from NRIs and OCIs by providing international level facilities to promote spirituality in the world and economic interest of India. Further, the resolution was passed that the central government will be asked to organize 'Brij Mahotsva' in the land of Lord Krishna, i.e., Vrindavan, Mathura and Govardhan region for the full development of Brij area.
- e. WBF resolved to urge Government of India to ensure safe return of Kashmiri Brahmans to their homeland; recognize them as an internally displaced minority and do everything possible to improve their situation.
- f. The next World Brahman Convention (WBC) will be held in 2009 in India.

A core group of prominent Brahman leaders in India has been formed under the leadership of Pandit Mange Ram Sharma to initiate talks with the central government of India to implement the demands of the Brahman community. Dr. Azad Kaushik, President, WBF Canada, invited the delegates to attend the next North American annual convention to be held in Toronto, Canada in 2008.

For additional information please call Nirmal Choubey at 609-792-5927 or visit our website at www.brahmanworld.org. World Brahman Federation is a Not-For-Profit organization registered in the state of New York.

Issued by: Sanjay Tripathi, Press Secretary; Phone: 732-979-3022