Religious Heads Call for Communal Harmony

Heads of various religious organisations converged in the city on Sunday and called on followers of different religions to work together as brothers and sisters aiming to nurture religious harmony in the country.

At a gathering at Isha Yoga Foundation as a part of the 14th anniversary of the consecration of the Dhyanaloka, various religious heads deliberated on the topic 'Universality of religions.' Talking on the occasion Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, president, All India Organisations of Imams and Mosque said Muslims have been misinterpreted by many.

"Divinity belongs to all and Lord is divine. The Lord doesn't create a single community but is the creator of all. Islam testifies all religion. Its messages are meant for humanity not for the community alone," he said.

Representing the Perur Adheenam, Illaya Thammi Thavai Thiru Maruthachala Adigalar said all religions are pathways which lead to a same goal.

"We are confronted by illusions and ignorance. Religion takes you through the right path and helps you to overcome the troubles," he said.

Dr Domin Emmanuel, director, Delhi Catholic Arch Diocese said the world has no clear understanding of the phenomenon called religion.

"There is no agreed definition on what universal means and what religion means. This causes dilemma and millions are still unaware of what religion aims to achieve," he said.

Right education could only lead to progress and communal harmony said Sirawai Adheenam Thava Thiru Kumaraguru para Aadhigalar. Leader of Isha Yoga Jaggi Vasudev hosted the guests. Representatives of Chinmayy Mission, Brahmakumaris and Ramakrishna Mutt also spoke.

Heads of various religious organisations who had gathered at the Isha Yoga Foundation in Coimbatore on Sunday to press for communal harmony.

‘40 Yrs Ago, Dalai Lama Warned of Uttarakhand-like Situation’

by Nataraj V P

Coimbatore: A Buddhist monastery representative on Sunday claimed that the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama had warned of a Uttarakhand-type natural disaster in Tibet nearly 40 years ago when China had mindlessly felled trees in Tibetan areas.

Jampasen Gey belonging to the Sera Lachi Buddhist Monastery in Bylakuppe in Karnataka, who was here to participate in a function at the Isha Yoga Centre, said, "The Dalai Lama had warned of an Uttarakhand-like situation 40 years ago. All this could have been avoided had we paid proper attention to the environment. I fear the same would happen in China and Tibet."

Talking about self-immolation attempts by Tibetans, he said China is the sole reason for such incidents.

"These are emotional outbursts and they die for the cause of a free Tibet. China should listen to us. China should adopt democratic ways to solve the problems with Tibet. The new generation of communists has taken over China. They should understand the emotions behind the Tibetan protests. We are hopeful about the new reign. India has stood by us several times and we are grateful to the country," he said.

While speaking about religions, he said no religion is by itself associated with terrorism and the media should give up associating terrorism with religion.

"It is unfortunate that members of the Muslim community are being harassed for alleged links with terrorists. It is absurd. Terrorism has no religion or boundaries. We should not jump to a conclusion just by taking certain instances into account," he said.