

## **People Fill Colors Of Peace In Life Through Peace Painting Festival**

### **Hundreds of Peace Messengers Spread The Colors of Rainbow of Peace**

Youth Wing – Brahma Kumari's has successfully conducted Peace Painting Contest under the title "Shanti no Sansar, Indradhanushi Bahar" to spread the vibrations of Peace. Hundreds of peace messengers filled colors of pure feelings on white canvas which is the symbol of peace.

The Youth wing of Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation has been planning various programs throughout India to foster national integration, harmony and other values since its inception in 1985. The youth wing is celebrating its silver jubilee year of its establishment in 2009-10. Peace painting Festival is a part of its programs.

Ahmedabad city is also celebrating 600<sup>th</sup> year of its establishment on 26/02/2010. The Ahmedabad - Navrangpura Center of Brahma Kumaris linked Silver Jubilee celebration of Youth Wing with the celebration of 600<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Ahmedabad city and organized a peace painting contest on a 600 meter long canvas in the heart of the city. This peace painting contest evoked tremendous interest in schools and colleges. More than 900 registered contestants,(as against the planned 600, ) rushed to the site with their parents and the relatives. 850 meter instead of 600 meter canvas was provided to meet the demands and the opportunity of painting was given to all. There were three groups of Contestants – less than 14 years, 15 to 25 years and above 26 years.

The grand beginning of festivities took place with candle lighting by the Chief guest brother M.M. Anarwala, DCP(Traffic), the guest of honour brother Madhav Ramanuj, a renowned poet, artist and chief of Kidney Institute of Civil Hospital Campus, the guest of honour brother Jitendra Chauhan, Chairman and Managing Director, JadeBlue, Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Chandrikaben, National Coordinator, Youth Wing, Master of Ceremony brother CA Lalitbhai from Mt. Abu, Youth Committee member, the program organizer BK Ishitaben, Center In-charge, Navrangpura and other VIPs of the city.

The Chief guest brother Anarwala praised the work of spreading message of peace by the white dressed Brahma Kumaris friends. He remarked that Ahmedabad has remained young all along. He also spread the fragrance of peace through painting on canvas with a brush.

The guest of honour brother Madhav Ramanuj remarked that the message of peace which is needed in the whole world is being spread by the great Institution like Brahma Kumaris. Thus the instrument for spreading a message of peace is also very important. He said that the whole history of Ahmedabad has shared much less peace, but peace will prevail now onwards in the city.

The national coordinator sister Rajyogini Chandrikaben, while giving blessings, remarked that it is we who can draw our own picture, whether it be of a deity or a devil.

The aim and object of the Peace Painting festival is to establish peace in ourselves, society, country and in the whole world.

The organizer of the Peace Painting Contest sister BK Ishitaben, while greeting all dignitaries and contestants, said that the spirit and feeling of peace is so intense in the children and youth that more than 900 contestants participated instead of predetermined 600 participants and the world today needs peace which can prevail in the society only through spirituality. She added that we will further plan such creative programs in the future which will help intensify the spirit of peace in youth.

All participants came with a given registration number. They were allotted painting number-cards according to their age groups. They were also given a packet of Toli, a beautiful booklet with peace paintings and slogans, a coupon for ice cream, and a "Sankalp Card"

A conch shell was blown at 8.15 AM and the children and youth started painting pictures on peace till 10.15 AM. The enthusiasm of contestants was enhanced by running commentary and beautiful songs and music. The children and youth were found engrossed in painting. The invited guests also painted on a canvas. The contestants who fell short of colors, were also provided with more.

The respected judges evaluated the paintings and gave first three ranks in each group. Some consolation prizes were also announced.

Esteemed Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Sarladidi, the in-charge of Gujarat Zone graced the concluding session of the program. She congratulated children and youth for participating in the contest and spreading the vibrations of peace. The winners were awarded prizes and Chocolates by her lotus like holy hands. Respected BK Induben gave certificate to all winners

The special attraction of the program was Sankalp Kalash and Gandhiji. The contestants and invited guests dropped "sankalp – card" for world peace, in a big pot called Sankalp Kalash, after putting their signatures.

As Ahmedabad is also known as the land of Gandhiji, one brother was dressed like Gandhiji on the stage, to remind the values of truth, non violence and peace advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

The most important part of the Festival was narration of experiences. Many of the enthusiastic contestants came forward and narrated their feelings and experience on the stage. One adolescent remarked, "we will never be peace less in our life, as we drew peace today". Another young girl remarked that she was very impressed by ever smiling faces of sevadharis and their courteous, love full, peaceful and helping behaviour in conducting the festival.

The festival concluded with the singing of the national anthem.