

Address delivered by
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We are living in a world of paradoxes. To illustrate:-

*We have taller buildings but shorter tempers
Wider free-ways, but narrower view points
We have more knowledge, but less judgment
More experts, yet more problems
More medicines, but less health
We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values
We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often
We have added years to life, not life to years
We have been all the way to the moon and back,
but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour
We have conquered outer space, but not inner space
We have done larger things, but not better things
We have conquered the atom, but not our prejudice*

Every nation talks of peace, but stores weapons of mass destruction.

Alas! We are educated but not dedicated.

Result: It will not be an exaggeration to say that the humanity stands on the brink of destruction. We suffer from threats of terrorism, deadly diseases due to air-pollution, food-poisoning, due to gases and adulteration. We have suffered Tsunami and hurricanes. Now, it is firmly established and acknowledged by social scientists that economic growth and human development are directly related with environment.

* Source: Peace, *His Holiness Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati*.

We all need peace, peace in mankind and peace in nature.

Peace is not only the absence of war. Peace is a relationship in a society leading to a world order, where there is a dynamic and constructive utilization of energy and human resources for the betterment and welfare of mankind. Peace is living in harmony with all those with whom we share the Earth – the humans, the animals and the plants.

Violence and war are animal instincts in man. They are the crudest and most destructive aspects of our lower nature. Animals fight with each other for territory and for social hierarchy. Humans are not supposed to follow that in instinct. To be at peace requires deeper thought, planning and placing the greater needs of our fellow-beings over our own individual desires.

To work for peace, it is necessary that we place, the peace first and our desires second; we must be willing to sacrifice for the greater good. Despite innumerable differences of culture and creed, we must work to truly accept each other, rather than simply tolerating each other. We have to understand, accept and believe that in spite of there being differences between our cultures, religions and nations, all human beings on earth are brothers and sisters. This can be achieved through communications and dialogues. Communicate and keep communicating, dialogue and deliberate until a concord has been reached.

There could not have been a better place than India to discuss these issues, culturally and constitutionally. We believe in

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole universe is a family). Our Constitution also gives the same message.

The preamble of the Constitution declares that India has been constituted into a republic for the purpose of achieving the goals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all. Article 51 reads (the relevant clause which is the theme of this World Judiciary Meet):-

51. Promotion of international peace and security – The State shall endeavour to –

xxx

xxx

xxx

(c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another;

xxx

xxx

xxx

Our Constitution has a special feature. It is not only contemplates fundamental rights of people and citizens but also contemplates eleven fundamental duties of its citizens. I may mention only three of them:-

“(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

(f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

(g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures”.

What do we do?

We have to learn the law of sustainable development; also to listen to the children – the children who are our own and our future – and understand the world from their point of view and create a powerful world judiciary to realise the goal which we must achieve in their interest which world in reality be our own interest.

Why ?

It is recognised that if we want our children, grand children, children yet to be born to live in a world better than today, we must learn to meet the present needs of humans without endangering the welfare of future generations. We have no right to destroy the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Conceptually the field of sustainable development has three constituents:

- (i) environment sustainability
- (ii) economic sustainability
- (iii) socio-political sustainability

All these three are interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars. There is yet a fourth policy area of sustainable development and that is cultural diversity as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

Time has come to understand that education is most powerful instrument of social transformation. There is a stanza from a poem written by Longfellow:-

There was a little girl,
And she had a little curl,
Right in the middle of her forehead;
When she was good, she was very-very good,
When she was bad, she was horrid

Cicero has said - "What greater or better gift can we offer to the world than to teach and instruct our youth?"

A lesson, simple as that, is to understand – "When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad" – (Abraham Lincoln).

This is what we have to teach our children and then learn from them what we have taught them.

Why our hopes are rivetted on judiciary? Judges are independent, impartial, and enjoy wide powers by convention and constitution. They are trained to be wonderfully quick, have a powerful mind which pierces the kernel of the matter while others are still hammering at the shell. They have character and intellect. And they are least concerned with politics.

International Court of Justice can exercise jurisdiction only if both parties agree to submit to its decision. A greater infirmity is that permanent members of the Security Council can veto enforcement of even those cases to which they consented in advance to be bound.

It is only peoples' powerful opinion created through such like conferences as the present one which can compel world leaders to agree for enforceable common world law enabling conferment of more extended and more binding jurisdiction of International Court of Justice.

If the judges of world unite, their voice cannot go unheard.

Ladies and Gentlemen! Listen to the voice of 2 billion children, speaking through the 32,000 students of CMS, in the words set out in the appeal presented to us today.

While it is only a proverb to say: 'Though education train up a child in the way he should go, and when he has grown up he will not depart from it.' But remember what Wordsworth said – 'The child is father of the man'. And, Milton said in 'Paradise Regained' – "The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day". It is our obligation to train, teach and educate the children of today. And, in turn they will take care of the world tomorrow.

I have participated in hundreds of Conferences but this one is unique. When it began, this auditorium and this campus were vibrating with the message of Mr. Jagdish Gandhi. And as the Conference has proceeded ahead I can feel the place and the people present here rocking with determination to act. We must leave this venue only with three determinations, to act, to act and to act.
