

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Recipient Constructive Work Award 2016

The world today is passing through difficult times. The use of Science and Technology in devising new weapons of destruction, the emergence of nuclear and atomic bombs, transcontinental missiles and the like have brought every part of the world under possible destruction. If a third world war breaks out, there will be no victor or vanquished. All will be equally destroyed. As Arnold Toynbee has said, 'In the present age, the world has been united on the material plane by Western Technology. But this Western skill has not only annihilated distance, it has armed the peoples of the world with weapons of devastating power at a time when they have been brought to point-blank range of each other without yet having learnt to know and love each other. At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way, the Emperor Ashoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence and Sri Ramakrishna's testimony to the spirit which only can make it possible for the human race to grow together.

To deliver this massage to the world, India must be strong and be united. Our national unity cannot be on the basis of a common political ideology or language as in other countries. Our national integration does not mean unity of language or religion. It is as we have proclaimed many times, unity in diversity. The basis of national integration should be widely shared goals and values, commitment to 'Indianness' without sacrificing the identity of sub-cultures. In India the concept of a nation state has to transcend religions, regional and other affiliations. It is the product of our freedom movement in which all people, regardless of caste, creed or religion have participated. The consolidation of this national unity in postindependence is a continuous process which should be consciously cultivated. All ideas, processes, practices and tactics for any narrow advantage which tend to divide should be eschewed. Divisive sentiments of all kinds have to be discouraged and curbed. It is not merely a matter of laws. Laws we have many. It is a question of lasting convictions both in intellect and emotions amongst our people. Even more important is action in various fields - political, social, educational, media etc.

The main measures to be taken to build a great and united India are:

1. To start with the youth, to build an educational system which will inculcate ethical, social and spiritual values and training in good citizenship based on mutual love, tolerance, pride in our culture and faith in our future to be achieved through mutual cooperation and hard work and which will inculcate patriotism.

2. To build a code of ethics to be followed by all particularly the leaders of society such as politicians, administrators, businessmen, industrialists and professionals to be good examples to our young people. The notion that to attain power and advancement any sort of measure, fair or foul, should give way to an accepted code of ethics for private, public and political action.

3. Taking steps in right earnest to build an egalitarian society where social and economic difference will be within reasonable limits and where the development and social justice and wellbeing will go together.

4. To rouse social action by words and example among young man and women to undertake the great work of building a great India. If the quality of our national life is to improve, the great spiritual heritage namely love of country and devotion to our great spiritual heritage namely love for the poor, suffering and down-trodden and the urge to sacrifice for them and absence of Jealousy, hatred and calumny.

Let a New India arise out of this deep feeling of love, devotion and dedication. Let everyone be involved in this great honor and privilege of building a new India and help in the dissemination of her great spiritual messages for the regeneration of the world. Let people from the books and corners of the county, from amongst the peasantry in the fields, the workers in the factories, from as Swami Vivekananda has said thousands of young men and women sincere to the core and nerved to a lion's courage out of their sympathy for the poor should come forward to undertake this sacred mission.

May the strong and noble, dedicated and heroic, from among the old and the young, men and women come forward to answer the mother's call, and in that process cover themselves with blessedness and glory.

