

## *Building Peace : The Bahudha Approach*

### *Abstract*

The rise of terrorism and fundamentalism in recent times has brought about phenomenal changes in global politics. The fundamental issue facing the world today is : “How to build peace?” This unprecedented challenge calls for a new, bold, and imaginative state-craft from the world leaders. The *Bahudha* approach provides a way to the world riven dangerously on conflict lines. *Bahudha* is both celebration of diversity and an attitude of mind that respects another person’s point of view. Democracy and dialogue are central to this approach. The recent revival of religions in the world is viewed in the context of globalization and free market. People assume radical positions to safeguard their culture and identity. The conflict commences from the inability of a person to accommodate views of others.

Modern living necessitates understanding each other’s needs, aspirations, faiths, and belief practices. We must learn to recognize and, as far as possible, understand the different cultural configurations in which human nature has expressed itself through indifferent religions, civilizations and nationalities. There is today a choice between ‘*clash of civilizations*’ and ‘*Bahudha*’. *Bahudha* offers a more positive alternative. But it may not happen automatically. The means to secure *Bahudha* would involve (i) religious harmony; (ii) educational programming; (iii) strengthening of international political architecture: the United Nations; and (iv) the use of military power in terms of the UN Charter. Our leaders, diplomats, members of the media, and concerned citizens have to consciously work for actualization of the *Bahudha* approach towards a peaceful and harmonious world.