



PRESS RELEASE

The Dalai Lama calls for ‘peaceful humanity’ at Ananta Centre meet

New Delhi, November 22, 2014: His Holiness, The 14th Dalai Lama, urged people to promote and secure the ideals of peace, harmony and secularism while addressing a special Ananta Centre discussion on “*Cultivating key human values*” in New Delhi today.

Captivating the gathering with his wit and wisdom, the spiritual leader reiterated the message of peace to end the prevailing global turmoil and suffering.

“Many of the problems humanity is facing today are our own creation. We create differences of nationality, faiths, background, classes, which are the basis of all problems. We have a common responsibility to create a happy, peaceful and compassionate humanity. Serving humanity is the best way to worship God,” **said The Dalai Lama** at an event hosted by the **Ananta Centre**, an independent and not-for-profit organisation focusing on international relations, public policy and leadership development.

Reflecting on the ‘materialistic focus’ of the global education system, he asserted that inculcating moral values in young minds was an imperative for a peaceful future.

“Whether the world will be more peaceful or chaotic by 2050 depends on us. We cannot change the past, but we can shape the future. The coming generations will have to widen their perspectives. They should consider the 7 billion people in the world as one humanity. Current education system is focussed on accumulating material wealth, but not towards strengthening moral values and ethics. We need to bring in human values in our education. People consider wealth and power as sources of happiness, but pleasure and satisfaction lie in the mind,” **The Dalai Lama opined.**

The Dalai Lama also lauded India’s secular principles, and stressed on the need for greater interaction between different religions and communities.

“I think religious harmony and secularism in India is truly wonderful, although there are occasional problems created by miscreants,” **he said, while adding,** *“My approach is that of non-sectarianism. We can learn from different religions and use them for our own spiritual growth. But if you maintain a distance, it brings sectarianism, which is not good.”*

The Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk, and is the spiritual leader of Tibet. Born in 1935 in Tibet, he was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso at the age of two.

According to Buddhist tradition, The Dalai Lama is believed to be manifestation of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the Bodhisattva of Compassion and the patron saint of Tibet. Bodhisattvas are believed to be enlightened beings who have postponed their own nirvana and chosen to take rebirth in order to serve humanity.

About Ananta Centre

Ananta Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that focuses on leadership development and open dialogue on important issues facing Indian society, to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, Governments and other stakeholders on issues of importance to India's development and national security.

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