

WELCOME ADDRESS

1. Respected Shri Aalok Kumar Ji, National Working President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad; Respected Shri Koenraad Elst Ji, a well-known scholar and author of many path breaking books on the contemporary issues afflicting Hinduism and Hindus; Shri Suresh Chavhanke Ji, CMD & the fire brand Editor-in-Chief of Sudarshan News; learned Moderators & Panelists, and esteemed Delegates and Participants of this Conference, Ladies and Gentlemen.
2. A very warm welcome to all of you to this 2nd Edition of the Hindu Charter, with its self-explanatory title National Conference on Equal Rights for Hindus. As you may be aware the 1st one was titled Hindu Charter of Demands. Though there are myriad problems afflicting Hindus and Hinduism, the Charter had identified 8 most important ones which are in the realm of Government. These may be seen at www.hinducharter.org
3. One of the demands of the Hindu Charter listed therein was abrogation of article 370 and division of the erstwhile State of J&K, which has since been done by the Govt. Hence, the Hindu Charter Team expresses their gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, our Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji, Sarsanghchalak Poojyaniya Mohan Bhagwat ji, the RSS, the BJP and all others concerned for the historic decision to abrogate Article 370 and divide the State of J & K and thereby reintegrating the country and the Constitution. Friends, we are under no illusion about our influence on the policy and decision-making process in the Government, and we are simply glad for the happenstance as it was one of the items in the Hindu Charter.
4. Agnotology or *AVIDYA* is the study of induced ignorance or of ignorance making. The *avidya* of Hindus about their own status in India stands testimony to the fact that in the midst of 'information' explosion there has been an 'induced ignorance' explosion as well particularly among Hindus about themselves. Even though ours has been a knowledge-based and knowledge-sharing civilisation, we the modern Hindus live in a collective state of induced ignorance about ourselves, our past, our constitutional and legal status, and what is in store for us even in the near let alone distant future. In

spite of centuries of occupation and foreign rule, why we have not learnt any existential lessons? Our forebears kept alive much of our civilisational knowledge, texts and values by their steadfast attachment to Hinduness in the midst of invasions, strife, wars and untold existential crisis, but we the modern Hindus have collectively conditioned ourselves to more or less abandon much of that millennia-old precious inheritance in the last about a century and more so during 70 years of independence. Why is it so? And how is it so?

5. Friends, as you may know, Macaulayism is the colonization of Hindu mind by systematic wiping out of traditional and ancient Hindu education, indigenous culture, and vocational systems and sciences via education system. The Hindu collective ignorance is thus manufactured, maintained and disseminated both as a process and as a purpose to deracinate Hindus with an obvious aim but tragically oblivious to Hindus to themselves, to spread **The Word about The Book of The God**. I suggest all to read a seminal book “Decolonising the Hindu Mind” authored by none other than the great Koenraad Elst.

6. Certain provisions of the Constitution particularly Articles 25 to 30 have the collective deleterious effect on Hindus and Hinduism, **(i)** of legally inducing our collective ignorance by hindering teaching of our ancient civilisational knowledge and texts, **(ii)** of deracinating us from our religious and cultural moorings by restricting celebration of our festivals and from observing our religious and cultural customs, **(iii)** of fragmenting Hindu society by denying us equal rights to establish and administer educational institutions without undue State interference, **(iv)** of causing attrition in our religious demography through mass conversions which is due to the freedom of religion given to proselytising and non-proselytising religions alike which is as unfair as giving equal rights to wolf and sheep to eat one another, **(v)** of depriving us of the right to manage our own religious affairs and administering our temples, religious places and their resources, **(vi)** of driving our priestly class to penury and thereby denuding Hinduism of its priesthood, **(vii)** of the Govts inadvertently facilitating religious conversion of Hindus

by sectarian spending of public funds for the exclusive benefit of religious minorities, and **(viii)** of general discrimination of Hindus and Hinduism *vis-a-vis* religious minorities in many aspects.

7. Friends, more than the constitutionally and legally ordained discrimination and denial of equal rights, the biggest tragedy is that 99% of Hindus are either ignorant or unconcerned of it. Exacerbating the problem, majority of Hindus are being induced an abominable trait of justifying their collective and individual ignorance or *avidya* by out of context peddling of one-liners from our ancient Sanskrit texts to hide their effeminacy in the shadow of contrived philosophy, such as वसुधैव कुटुम्बकं ; सर्वधर्म समभाव etc. Thereby these ignoramuses also intellectually disorient and defang even those very few conscious Hindus. It seems a महामारी of Stockholm syndrome and lemming complex combined is killing the modern Hindu society.

8. Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to say that Santana Dharma which is the bedrock of our ancient civilisation, is under threat of extinction more because of the abandonment of Hinduness by Hindus due to induced collective ignorance or *avidya*. All that is visible now is only the empty form which is bereft of its Hindu content and Hinduness.

9. Friends, midway through the arrangements I thought that it would be more appropriate to rename this conference as National Conference on Agnotology of Hindu Dhimmitude. But by then it was too late. So I thought to reserve that name for the future. However, I suggest to the intellectuals here to take up study of this under-explored topic -- Agnotology of Hindu Dhimmitude -- which will yield enough material for more than one book that may help awaken Hindus from their *kumbha karna* state.

10. Friends, we all know that the first step to solving any problem is recognizing there is one. This Conference as also its pre-cursor the HCD last year, is programmatic to initiate a discussion about Hindu induced ignorance of their dhimmitude or their 2nd class status as ordained by the Constitution itself, mostly in its Articles

25 to 30 and in some others, and to seek their amendment by Parliament to upgrade the status of Hindus to that of Minorities.

11. The inspiration for the Hindu Charter and this Conference comes from *punyapurush* Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, the Founder of RSS. I quote him:

“The Hindu culture is the life-breath of Hindusthan. It is therefore clear that if Hindusthan is to be protected, we should first nourish the Hindu culture. If the Hindu culture perishes in Hindusthan itself, and if the Hindu society ceases to exist, it will hardly be appropriate to refer to the mere geographical entity that remains as Hindusthan. Mere geographical lumps do not make a nation.”

12. Therefore, the only way to prevent Hindu civilisation from joining the list of extinct Pagan civilisations such as Rome, Zoroastrian, Inca, Maya, Aztec etc, is by massive Re-Hinduisation of Hindus by unmaking their collective induced ignorance or *avidya*.

13. With these few words, I once again welcome you all to partake in this intellectual treat, which is our baby step for de-colonizing or de-macaulayising our mind for moving towards our civilisational motto of:

असतो मा सद्गमय ।
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।
मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय ।

14. Jai Hind