

# TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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The IT boom over the last decade made India a global power to reckon with. But the global recession has raised a hard question: In spite of our knowledge of global markets and how to manipulate them, why are we reeling under a global market crash that our IT systems could not predict and are struggling to cope with? More fundamentally, how much does IT contribute to real human progress?

Information is not insight: Information is not knowledge, and certainly not wisdom. What we get through information is like the glimpses of a dark room through torchlight instantaneously flashed on different

points, different directions and different distances. It dazzles us with facts and figures, while distracting us from lasting truths about our origin, identity, value and purpose, lasting truths that illuminate and enrich.

Technology debilitates our spirit: Technology makes us so fascinated and dependent on external gadgetry that we forget to develop ourselves, to realize our non-material, mental and spiritual potentials.

What makes the problem even more critical is that IT is being used in a consumerist society, which preoccupies people with fulfilling their base desires and animalistic cravings. Sadly, IT has ended up consolidating an exploitative, selfish world order, which inflicts poverty and scarcity on millions, rapes mother nature and robs future generations of their rightful natural resources.

To wisely use IT, we need another IT – Inner Transformation. What the world needs today is not better technology, but inner transformation that enables people to use IT constructively. Only when we can empower people with the spiritual processes like mantra meditation to break free of their lower selves and find joy in their higher selves can we ward off global disaster. Inner Transformation will raise people's consciousness that enables them to find inner happiness in selfless service to the Supreme and all His children.

Swiss professor Dr Richard Ernst, Noble Laureate in Chemistry, 1999, points this out: "I am convinced that India could become once again the cradle of a new school of thought that may significantly influence the fate of the globe in the third millennium. . Perhaps the contributions of India to nuclear power technology and space science will turn out to be irrelevant, but the contributions towards a new ethical foundation could be turning the wheel of history in the proper (balanced) way."

In the same spirit, more than three decades before Ernst's observation, Srila Prabhupada, the founder of ISKCON, went to USA, and boldly announced his mission: "I have not come here to beg for money or technology like many Indian political leaders do. I have come here to give, not beg." Maybe, if more of us could imbibe this spirit, and assimilate and disseminate our national spiritual legacy, India could lead the world in taking IT to the next level.

