Dr. A. K. Merchant is the National Trustee cum Secretary, Lotus Temple & Bahá'í Community of India; General Secretary, The Temple of Understanding—India [NGO with consultative status at the United Nations]. National Trustee, Sarvodaya International Trust; Associate Secretary General, Global Warming Reduction Centre; Visiting Faculty, Centre for Cultural Resources & Training, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. A subject expert for research scholars enrolled for "interfaith education and Indian culture" of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund; Honorary Director, Messrs. MK Aromatics Limited, Chennai.

Dr. Merchant is the author of three monographs: (i) <u>Communal Harmony—India's</u> <u>Greatest Challenge</u> (1991), which has been quoted in one of the Supreme Court Judgments on "Babri Masjid—Ram Janambhoomi" dispute, and (ii) <u>Hindu Dharma evam Bahá'í Dharma</u> (1999), (iii) <u>Five</u> <u>Basic Human Values & the Bahá'í Faith</u> (2009), and over two hundred articles and research papers that have been published in national and international dailies, journals and books. He is an active promoter of gender justice and has spoken on numerous occasions for the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action; the environment and ecology; world peace, *inter alia;* Resource Person for the promotion on discourses of science, religion and development.