Peace symposium deliberates on addressing key global issues Kolkata, Jul 14 (PTI) Love, passion and dialogue are key to addressing pressing issues like climate change, gender equality and refugee crisis, which will ultimately lead to a more peaceful world, feel members of a global organisation seeking to inculcate common values among people.

The Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), organised a 'peace symposium' in the city yesterday to deliberate on the issues, and propagate the message of tolerance and coexistence.

"Through these peace symposiums, we are able to create an ideology and awareness among the people of a particular city, especially among the youth. The youth have lot of power, passion and energy, which if channelised in the right direction, can bring lot of positive results," Chairperson of BSG, Vishesh Gupta said.

The organisation also holds exhibitions on various themes in schools and colleges, he said at the symposium on 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement'.

"Exhibits on environmental control and climate change create awareness in the minds of children. Motivated, they tell their parents to save energy and not use plastic," Gupta said. He said that SGI president Dr Daisaku Ikeda issues a 'peace proposal' every year since 1983, which present "concrete solutions to a variety of global problems or threats that seriously impact people's lives, livelihoods and dignity".

In 2018, the proposal talked about women empowerment, gender equality and refugee crisis. Gupta said that Ikeda is also of the view that one generation will be "wiped out" if they are not imparted the right education and provided opportunities.

"We visit troubled areas also. People directly involved in troubled areas also want peace. We are encouraging them and helping them to discover their inner self, and help them realise that they can also contribute to peace," he said. PTI SBN RBT RBT RBT
Kolkata: Love, passion and dialogue are key to addressing pressing issues like climate change, gender equality and refugee crisis, which will ultimately lead to a more peaceful world, feel members of a global organisation seeking to inculcate common values among people. The Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), organised a "peace symposium" in the city on Friday to deliberate on the issues, and propagate the message of tolerance and coexistence.

"Through these peace symposiums, we are able to create an ideology and awareness among the people of a particular city, especially among the youth. The youth have lot of power, passion and energy, which if channelised in the right direction, can bring lot of positive results," chairperson of BSG, Vishesh Gupta said. The organisation also holds exhibitions on various themes in schools and colleges, he said at the symposium on "Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People’s Movement".

"Exhibits on environmental control and climate change create awareness in the minds of children. Motivated, they tell their parents to save energy and not use plastic," Mr Gupta said.

He said that SGI president Dr Daisaku Ikeda issues a "peace proposal" every year since 1983, which present “concrete solutions to a variety of global problems or threats that seriously impact people’s lives, livelihoods and dignity”. In 2018, the proposal talked about women empowerment, gender equality and refugee crisis. Mr Gupta said that Ikeda is also of the view that one generation will be “wiped out” if they are not imparted the right education and provided opportunities.

“We visit troubled areas also. People directly involved in troubled areas also want peace,” he said.
Peace symposium deliberates on addressing key global issues

Love, passion and dialogue are key to addressing pressing issues like climate change, gender equality and refugee crisis, which will ultimately lead to a more peaceful world, feel members of a global organisation seeking to inculcate common values among people.

The Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), organised a 'peace symposium' in the city yesterday to deliberate on the issues, and propagate the message of tolerance and coexistence.

"Through these peace symposiums, we are able to create an ideology and awareness among the people of a particular city, especially among the youth. The youth have lot of power, passion and energy, which if channelised in the right direction, can bring lot of positive results," Chairperson of BSG, Vishesh Gupta said.

The organisation also holds exhibitions on various themes in schools and colleges, he said at the symposium on 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement'.

"Exhibits on environmental control and climate change create awareness in the minds of children. Motivated, they tell their parents to save energy and not use plastic," Gupta said. He said that SGI president Dr Daisaku Ikeda issues a 'peace proposal' every year since 1983, which present "concrete solutions to a variety of global problems or threats that seriously impact people's lives, livelihoods and dignity".

In 2018, the proposal talked about women empowerment, gender equality and refugee crisis. Gupta said that Ikeda is also of the view that one generation will be "wiped out" if they are not imparted the right education and provided opportunities.

"We visit troubled areas also. People directly involved in troubled areas also want peace. We are encouraging them and helping them to discover their inner self, and help them realise that they can also contribute to peace," he said. PTI SBN RBT RBT RBT
Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

"Man's capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction. "

"Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights," former CEO of India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: "When anyone sees others suffering, he should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

"Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world," he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

"Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act," said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Aloknanda Roy, who Aworks for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

"For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world," she added.
Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement

In order to steer the world away from conflicts to building a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium on Friday discussed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled "Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement." The main points of the proposal were discussed by eminent speakers, Mr. Suman Mukhopadhyay, Film Maker and Theatre Activist, Ms. Alokananda Roy, Dancer and Social Activist and Dr. B.N. Ramesh, Additional Director General & Inspector General of Police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Former Culture Secretary, Govt. of India.

Commenting on this initiative, Mr Sircar said that initiatives like this are truly relevant in current times as they offer "the possibility of peace in an increasingly fractured and volatile world".

Mr Romesh was particularly struck by the concept of "human revolution" as articulated by President Ikeda and added that this was of great relevance with the youth today. Mr Mukhopadhyay predictably entered the arts domain as he pointed out that films and theatre too reflect the vision behind civil rights movements and concerns related to dignity for all. The Peace Proposal underscores the fact that we are striving for the same goals and therefore it is critically important that we come together and work unitedly to achieve our common Rights activist, Alokananda Roy, believes and works for 'Dignity for All'. She echoed President Ikeda's belief that when looking at human rights issues, care should be taken that no one is left out or left behind. Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Mr. Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai said, "When anyone see others suffering, he should empathize and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy. Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world".

In his proposal, Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasizes that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities. While technology and infrastructure has helped connectivity between people across geographical boundaries, Ikeda says a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people joyously celebrate each other's progress.

Toward building such an inclusive society, he has urged giving prime importance to women's empowerment as that will not only be key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations.

"Women's empowerment cannot be an optional agenda: It is an urgent priority for many people in dire situations," says Ikeda.
‘Promoting forgiveness, going beyond clash of identities necessary for world peace’

Kolkata, July 14: Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

“Man’s capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction.

“Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights,” former CEO of India’s public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroot organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: “When anyone sees others suffering, he should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

“Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world,” he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

“Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act,” said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Aloknanda Roy, who works for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

“For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world,” she added.
Kolkata, July 14 (IANS) Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

"Man's capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction. "Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights," former CEO of India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroot organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: "When anyone sees others suffering, he should empathise and take compassionately action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

"Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world," he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

"Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act," said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Alokanda Roy, who works for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalised people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

"For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world," she added.
Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

"Man's capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction. "

"Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights," former CEO of India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroot organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: "When anyone sees others suffering, he should empatHise and take compassionaTe action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy."

"Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world," he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

"Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act," said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Alokanda Roy, who Aworks for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

"For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world," she added.
মনন-জীবন আন্তরিকতা, শুক্রবারের সাঁখে বিশ্বশান্তির অনন্য নজির গড়ল ‘ভারত সোকা গাকাই’

শান্তির বার্তা দিল ভারত সোকা গাকাই
Peace proposal: Save world from conflicts, complications

KOLKATA: To keep the world away from conflicts and complications and to build a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium, discussed Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda’s 2018 peace proposal titled “Toward an era of human rights: Building a people’s movement.”

It was held at Mini Auditorium in Science City. The major points of the proposal were discussed by Suman Mukhopadhyay, filmmaker and theatre activist. Alokandra Roy, dancer and social activist and Dr BN Ramesh, Additional Director General and Inspector General of Police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission.

At the outset, Mukhopadhyay said, “When life itself seems dramatic, it can be inward, outward and everyone must have to overcome those all. All we need to do is act. The time has come to act rather than to sit at place.”

Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson of the Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) thinks that when someone sees others suffering, he/she should empathise and take compassionate action, so as to make them happy.

He further said, “Broadening the understanding and support, for this way of thinking, is key to building a movement at the grassroots for peace that can unite people around the world.”

Alokandra Roy seemed to be hopeful to build a good environment in the society. He feels that Buddhism has taught her how to forgive. She added, “I think forgiveness is not easy and we shall learn to love and forgive. If we are doing something for ourselves, we shall not think that we are doing favour, rather we are being favoured by the divine.”

Roy also raised voice against mockery of transgender.

"We shall not discard, marginalise the transgender. It is not their fault. They are just like they were born. As I am regularly in touch with them, I know the trauma they go through every day. They suffer a lot being ostracised."

Roy added. She thinks that if everybody is talking about equality, then no one should look down upon boys when they find them in the kitchen.

Roy further added, “Let all be equal. Let the boys do those things which girls do every day.”

When technology helped in connecting people across the geographical boundaries, Ikeda says that a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged, only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people mostly celebrate each other’s progress.

He says, “It is through our efforts to awaken and save our own dignity. We cherish and care for those around us that our lives come to shine brilliantly.”

Dr BN Ramesh feels that the challenge of creating new reality of a global society, where everyone can live in peace and dignity, is not beyond the reach.

“I think that through humanistic approach, we can make world better.”
ভারত সরকারের উদ্যোগে সম্প্রতি হয়ে গেল এক শাস্তি সমালোচনা। সরকার এই ব্যাপারে অভিমত আনানস ও বিচারীদের কর্তৃত্বে গণআনুষ্ঠানিক উদযাপন।

১৮ জুলাই, কলকাতা। মানবাধিকার ও শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি সমালোচনা প্রতিদিন আনন্দ ও বিচার ও সচিব শাস্তি 

কলকাতায় শাস্তি সমালোচনা

Kolkata.tv.org
Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement

Kolkata | Friday, Jul 13 2018 IST

In order to steer the world away from conflicts to building a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium on Friday discussed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled "Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement." The main points of the proposal were discussed by eminent speakers, Mr. Suman Mukhopadhyay, Film Maker and Theatre Activist, Ms. Alokananda Roy, Dancer and Social Activist and Dr. B.N.Ramesh, Additional Director General & Inspector General of Police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Former Culture Secretary, Govt. of India.

Commenting on this initiative, Mr Sircar said that initiatives like this are truly relevant in current times as they offer "the possibility of peace in an increasingly fractured and volatile world".

Mr Romesh was particularly struck by the concept of "human revolution" as articulated by President Ikeda and added that this was of great relevance with the youth today. Mr Mukhopadhyay predictably entered the arts domain as he pointed out that films and theatre too reflect the vision behind civil rights movements and concerns related to dignity for all. The Peace Proposal underscores the fact that we are striving for the same goals and therefore it is critically important that we come together and work unitedly to achieve our common Rights activist, Alokananda Roy, believes and works for 'Dignity for All'. She echoed President Ikeda's belief that when looking at human rights issues, care should be taken that no one is left out or left behind. Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Mr. Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai said, "When anyone see others suffering, he should empathize and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy. Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world".

In his proposal, Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasizes that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities. While technology and infrastructure has helped connectivity between people across geographical boundaries, Ikeda says a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people joyously celebrate each other's progress.

Toward building such an inclusive society, he has urged giving prime importance to women's empowerment as that will not only be key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations.

"Women's empowerment cannot be an optional agenda: It is an urgent priority for many people in dire situations," says Ikeda.
Kolkata, Jul 14 (IANS): Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons. Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

"Man's capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction.

"Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights," former CEO of India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: "When anyone sees others suffering, he should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

"Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world," he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

"Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act," said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Aloknanda Roy, who works for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

"For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world," she added.
Kolkata, July 14 - Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people, protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society, according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest, the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

Man's capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction.

Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights, former CEO of India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986, BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroot organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: When anyone sees others suffering, he should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world, he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now, there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act, said Mukhopadhyay, who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Aloknanda Roy, who works for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal, said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

For achieving the goal of peace, we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world, she added.
Love, passion and dialogue are key to addressing pressing issues like climate change, gender equality and refugee crisis, which will ultimately lead to a more peaceful world, feel members of a global organisation seeking to inculcate common values among people. The Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), organised a 'peace symposium' in the city yesterday to deliberate on the issues, and propagate the message of tolerance and coexistence.

"Through these peace symposiums, we are able to create an ideology and awareness among the people of a particular city, especially among the youth. The youth have lot of power, passion and energy, which if channelised in the right direction, can bring lot of positive results," Chairperson of BSG, Vishesh Gupta said.

The organisation also holds exhibitions on various themes in schools and colleges, he said at the symposium on 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement'.

"Exhibits on environmental control and climate change create awareness in the minds of children. Motivated, they tell their parents to save energy and not use plastic," Gupta said. He said that SGI president Dr Daisaku Ikeda issues a 'peace proposal' every year since 1983, which present "concrete solutions to a variety of global problems or threats that seriously impact people's lives, livelihoods and dignity".

In 2018, the proposal talked about women empowerment, gender equality and refugee crisis. Gupta said that Ikeda is also of the view that one generation will be "wiped out" if they are not imparted the right education and provided opportunities.

"We visit troubled areas also. People directly involved in troubled areas also want peace. We are encouraging them and helping them to discover their inner self, and help them realise that they can also contribute to peace," he said.
Promoting forgiveness, going beyond clash of identities necessary for world peace

Kolkata July 14 (IANS) Compassion and forgiveness towards fellow people protecting the rights of marginalised sections and going beyond clash of identities are the most important aspects for promoting peace in the society according to a panel of eminent persons.

Pointing out that sensitisation and protection of teenagers are extremely important to move them away from the path of violence and unrest the panel said it is time for building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

"Man’s capacity to destroy themselves almost equals his capacity to do the reverse. Massive level of sensitisation and engagement are necessary to move men in that direction.

"Human beings have a genetically propelled condition to be united and form a coherent society. We need to work towards removing the clash of identities and provide basic human rights " former CEO of India’s public broadcaster Prasar Bharati Jawhar Sircar said at a symposium organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) here on Friday.

Established in 1986 BSG is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) a global association of grassroot organisations working to promote peace through culture and education.

BSG chairperson Vishesh Gupta said: "When anyone sees others suffering he should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy.

"Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world " he said.

National Award winning Bengali film maker Suman Mukhopadhyay laid stress on the role of art in promoting peace.

"Art has an important role in promoting peace as it makes people receptive of good things. I think it is time for all of us to come forward and promote peace and unity. With so many conflicts around us now there is no time for us to sit back and ponder. It is time to act " said Mukhopadhyay who is also working on a film on the unrest in Kashmir.

Danseuse and social activist Aloknanda Roy who Aworks for the welfare and rights of jail inmates and transgenders in Bengal said it is important to give human rights top priority and put an end to loathing towards marginalise people like transgender and juvenile criminals.

"For achieving the goal of peace we need to carry along everyone with us towards development. A section cannot be left behind in the darkness of deprivation. The society clearly needs to do more to protect the rights of the marginalised. It is also necessary to have compassion and forgiveness to have peace in the world " she added.
Science City: For 36 years, a Japanese man has been writing and sending a peace proposal to the United Nations. Even at 90, Daisaku Ikeda stays committed to his life-long effort to steer the world away from conflicts and build a humanistic society. He has managed to spread his belief across 192 countries, including India, through the Buddhist society of Soka Gakkai that he leads.

The Soka education system, rooted in the society’s values, encompasses kindergartens in six countries, elementary to graduate level schools in Japan and a liberal arts university in California. Born to a family of seaweed farmers, the Buddhist philosopher and peacemaker has also founded an art museum, a music concert association and institutes for peace and policy research in Japan and the US.

The organisation’s India arm Bharat SokaGakkai held a conference on Ikeda’s 36th peace proposal at Science City on Saturday. "Soka means value creation. There is a lot of synergy between our values and the UN’s agenda,” said Vishesh Gupta, the chairperson of Bharat Soka Gakkai.

The guests were welcomed by volunteers clapping in rhythmic unison.

"Art can’t teach anyone anything. It only makes the human soul receptive to the good. Neither does artistic vision fall from the sky. It is the result of practice,” said filmmaker Suman Mukhopadhyay. He went on to talk of the issues he has addressed through his work on the stage and in films. He is planning a film on Kashmir, titled Paradise in Flames.

Dancer Alokananda Roy shared her experience of working with prisoners. "When I walked into a prison, I did not expect to meet people with heart. But if you treat them as human, they also feel human. I have worked with juvenile offenders, too, who are traumatised by society’s finger-pointing. They made a mistake. It's fair to give them a second chance,” she argued. Her new students, however, have not made any mistake. They are transgenders. "They do not deserve to be cast aside.”

B.N. Ramesh, additional director general and inspector general of police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission, spoke of his experience of tackling insurgency-hit states across the country and people he met along the way, like an 11-year-old stone pelter in Kashmir.

Former Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar shared his experience of attending three Unesco conventions. On the agenda was restitution of cultural property, i.e. the question of returning cultural artefacts plundered from another nation. "Management of peace at the kitchen level calls for patience,” he said.

Using the acronym VUCA coined by the US army, which stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity, he said: "That's the world we face. Is peace worth discussing in such a world? But man's capacity to destroy is equalled only by his capacity to save.”

He cited the genesis of a cross-cultural signal - the salutation. "When strangers met in the medieval times, it was customary to delink the right hand from the body to indicate that no weapon would be used. Warriors would also raise their visors to reveal their identity. The gesture was stylised over time.”

Sircar also mentioned the phenomenon of Mexican wave in sports stadiums. "It proves that there is dormant in man a capacity to act in unison, rising above identity and ideology thrust upon him," he said.
Sanmarg - BSG Symposium on Era of Human Rights

In order to steer the world away from conflicts to building a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium on Friday, 13 July, discussed SDG president Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled "Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement."

Hosted at Mini Auditorium, Science City, Kolkata, the main points of the proposal were discussed by eminent speakers, Mr. Sunam Mukhopadhyay, FilmMaker and Theatre Activist, Ms. Akonanda Roy, Dancer and Social Activist; and Dr. B.N. Baruah, Additional Director General & Inspector General of Police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Former Culture Secretary, Government of India.

Commenting on this initiative Mr. Sircar said that initiatives like this are truly relevant in current times as they offer "the possibility of peace in an increasingly fractured and volatile world."

Mr. Mukhopadhyay predictably entered the arts domain as he pointed out that films and theatre too reflect the vision behind civil rights movements and concerns related to dignity for all.

"The Peace Proposal underscores the fact that we are striving for the same goals and therefore it is critically important that we come together and work unitedly to achieve our common goals.

"Right activist, Akonanda Roy, believes and works for 'Dignity for All.' She echoed President Ikeda's belief that when looking at human rights issues, care should be taken that no one is left out or left behind.

"In his proposal, Ikeda cites the need for a "child is a child" emphasis that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities."

"Building such an inclusive society is the need of the hour," he stressed, giving primacy to women's empowerment as that will not only be key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations.

"Women's empowerment cannot be an optional agenda. It is an urgent priority for many people in dire situations," says Ikeda.