

WB-PEACE-SYMPOSIUM

Pace 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

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Metros, Kolkata

'Love and dialogue are key to addressing pressing issues'

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'Promoting forgiveness, going beyond clash of identities necessary for world peace'

IANIS | Kolkata

Business Standard

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 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.

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. Alokanda 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, Alokanda 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.

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The logo for Dailyworld, featuring the word "Dailyworld" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.

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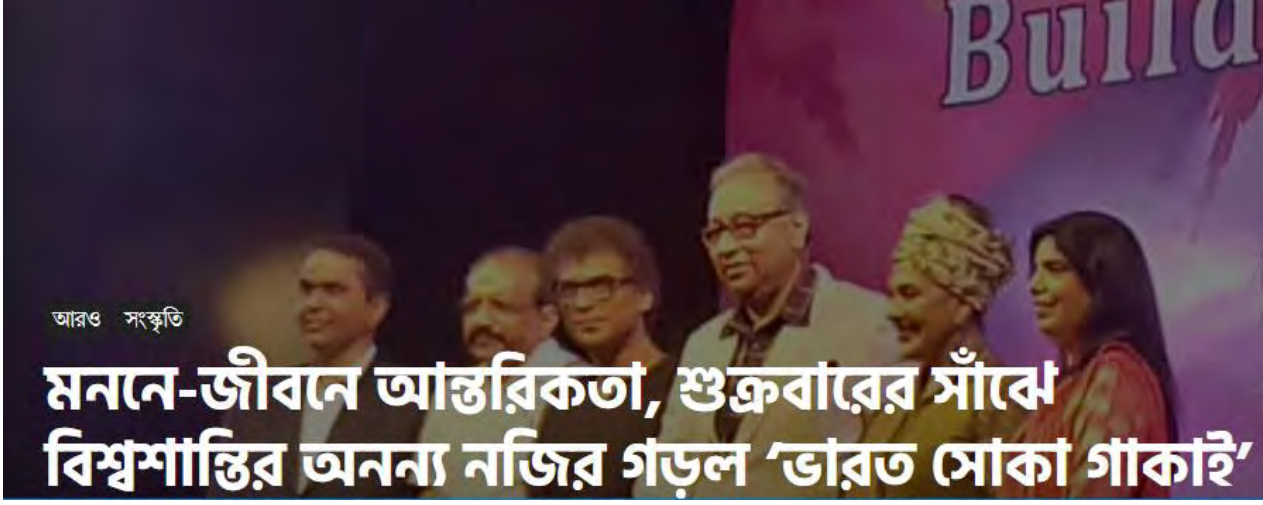
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আরও সংস্কৃতি

মননে-জীবনে আন্তরিকতা, শুক্রবারের সাঁঝে
বিশ্বশান্তির অনন্য নজির গড়ল 'ভারত সোকা গাঙ্কাই'



শান্তির বার্তা দিল ভারত সোকা গাঙ্কাই

শনিবার ১৪ জুলাই, ২০১৮ ছবি: সংগৃহীত।

বিশ্ব শান্তির লক্ষ্যে নিরলস প্রচেষ্টা

সোকা গাক্কাই-এর সদস্যদের

Khobor 365

চন্দন রায়

যুদ্ধবাজরা হুমকি ছুড়ে দিচ্ছে পরস্পরকে, মানবতা আর নৈতিকতা বহু ক্ষেত্রেই তুচ্ছ। নারীকে আজও ভোগাচণ্ডার বেশি ভাবে পারণে না অনেক আধুনিক সমাজ। মানবিকতা লঙ্ঘিত হচ্ছে বাবে বাবে। পারমাণবিক অস্ত্রে গোপনে শান দিচ্ছে

বহু উন্নত দেশই। আরেকটা বিশ্বযুদ্ধ বাধলে গোটা পৃথিবীটাই নিশ্চিহ্ন হয়ে যাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা সব থেকে বেশি। এই রকম সময়ে স্বেচ্ছাচারিতাই প্রয়োজন বিশ্বশান্তি আর মানবতার আদর্শ প্রচার।

প্রত্যেকটি প্রাণের আছে এই পৃথিবীতে বাঁচার অধিকার। আমরা সবাই আসলে সমান। বিশ্বের ১৯২ টি দেশে ১২ মিলিয়নেরও বেশি সাধারণ মানুষকে শান্তির পথে সুন্দরভাবে বাঁচতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করছে সোকা গাক্কাই ইন্টারন্যাশনাল। এই



সোকা গাক্কাই'র আন্তর্জাতিক পতাকা।

নামের আক্ষরিক অর্থ মূল্যবোধ নির্মাণ সংস্থা। পরমাণু অস্ত্র বিধ্বস্ত জাপানে ১৯৩০ সালে এই সংস্থা প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন সুনোসাবুরো মাকিগুচি নামের এক স্কুল শিক্ষক এবং তাঁর শিষ্য জোসেই তোদা। জোসেই তোদার শিষ্য দাইসাকু ইকেদা পরবর্তীতে সোকা গাক্কাই-কে ছড়িয়ে দেন ১৯২টি দেশে। ১৯৮৩ থেকে ডঃ ইকেদা ইউনাইটেড নেশনস-এ পেশ করে আসছেন তাঁর বিশ্বশান্তি প্রস্তাব নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে। তিনি বিশ্বাস করেন, প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তি-মানুষের অন্তরে যদি পরিবর্তন ঘটে তা হলেই একটা গোটা সমাজ এবং দেশের পরিবর্তন আসতে পারে। একে তিনি বলেন মানব বিপ্লব। সোশাল

পরমাণু অস্ত্র বিধ্বস্ত জাপানে ১৯৩০ সালে এই সংস্থা প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন সুনোসাবুরো মাকিগুচি নামের এক স্কুল শিক্ষক এবং তাঁর শিষ্য জোসেই তোদা। জোসেই তোদার শিষ্য দাইসাকু ইকেদা পরবর্তীতে সোকা গাক্কাই-কে ছড়িয়ে দেন ১৯২টি দেশে।

১৯৮৩ থেকে ডঃ ইকেদা ইউনাইটেড নেশনস-এ পেশ করে আসছেন তাঁর বিশ্বশান্তি প্রস্তাব নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে।

মিডিয়া যখন মানুষকে পরস্পরের থেকে দূরে সরিয়ে দিচ্ছে, সেই সময়ে সড়িয়ে ডঃ ইকেদার দর্শনে উদ্বুদ্ধ হয়ে সোকা গাক্কাই সদস্যরা মানুষের সঙ্গে সংযোগ স্থাপন করে চলেছেন মুখোমুখি আন্তরিক আলাপচারিতায়। এভাবেই একসূত্রে বাঁধা পড়ছেন দেশকাল নির্বিশেষে সাধারণ মানুষ। তাঁর তেঁদর করছেন মানবতার এক অনন্য নজির। সোকা গাক্কাই-এর উদ্দেশ্য শিক্ষার প্রসার, সেই শিক্ষা ডিগ্রি লাভের না, মানবতার শিক্ষা। প্রকৃত শান্তি, শিক্ষা এবং সংস্কৃতির প্রসারের মধ্য দিয়ে নিরলসভাবে নৈতিকতা এবং মানবতার প্রসার ঘটিয়ে চলেছেন সোকা গাক্কাই-এর সদস্যরা। দাইসাকু ইকেদা আজ পৃথিবীর একজন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ শান্তি নির্মাতা। তিনি তাঁর লেখনীর মাধ্যমে আজও মানুষকে শান্তির পথে ধাক্কাতে উদ্বুদ্ধ করে চলেছেন। সারা পৃথিবীর বিভিন্ন দেশের বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে তিনি পোয়েছেন তিন শতাধিক ডক্টরেট ডিগ্রি। ইউনাইটেড নেশনস প্রতি বছর ইকেদার শান্তি-প্রস্তাবের উপর ভিত্তি করে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যায় বিশ্বশান্তির বহু উদ্যোগ। আন্তর্জাতিক সোকা গাক্কাই-এর ভারতীয় অংশের নাম ভারত সোকা

গাক্কাই। বর্তমানে সদস্য সংখ্যা দুই লক্ষাধিক, যার মধ্যে একলক্ষ সদস্য এই প্রজন্মের যুব সম্প্রদায়, যারা স্বপ্ন দেখাচ্ছেন মানবতা আর শিক্ষার আদর্শে এক ভেদাভেদহীন ভবিষ্যৎ ভারতীয় সমাজ গড়ে তোলার। দাইসাকু ইকেদা তাঁদের জীবন শিক্ষক।



ডঃ দাইসাকু ইকেদা

ভারতের বিভিন্ন প্রদেশে প্রতি বছরই দাইসাকু ইকেদার শান্তি-প্রস্তাবের উপর ভিত্তি করে আয়োজিত হচ্ছে পিস সিম্পোসিয়াম। সমাজের শান্তিকামী বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিরা তুলে ধরছেন তাঁদের মূল্যবান মতামত। গত ১৩ জুলাই কলকাতার সার্বভৌম সিটি প্রেক্ষাগৃহে পিস সিম্পোসিয়ামে অংশগ্রহণ করেছিলেন বাংলার বিশিষ্ট বাজিবর্গ। সেখানে বক্তব্য রাখেন নৃত্যশিল্পী ও সমাজকর্মী অলকানন্দা রায়, অ্যাডিশনাল ডিরেক্টর জেনারেল অ্যান্ড ইনস্পেক্টর জেনারেল অব পুলিশ এবং সোশাল আকটিভিস্ট ডঃ বি এন রমেশ এবং ভারত সরকারের প্রাক্তন সংস্কৃতি সচিব জহর সরকার প্রমুখ বিশিষ্টরা। ভারতে

সোকা গাক্কাই-এর চেয়ারপার্সন বিশেষ গুপ্তা সব শেষে বলেন, কেউ কষ্টে আছে দেখলে আমাদের সহানুভূতির মনোভাব নিয়ে তার পাশে দাঁড়াতে হবে। তাকে আনন্দে বাঁচার পথ দেখাতে হবে। ডঃ ইকেদার প্রস্তাব অনুযায়ী নারীজাতিকে সম্মান প্রদান এবং সমানতাবের প্রদান আমাদের ভালো থাকার অন্যতম দ্যোতক। নারীশক্তিই সুস্থ সমাজ গঠনের কাণ্ডারি। বয়স্ক মানুষদেরও প্রকৃত সম্মান দিতে হবে সমাজকে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যেতে। উদ্বাস্ত সমস্যাকে মানবিক দৃষ্টিতে দেখভাল করতে হবে, একটি শিশু আসলে শিশুই, তাকে দেশ, কাল নির্বিশেষে শিশু হিসেবেই ভালোবাসতে হবে। পরমাণু অস্ত্রে শান দেওয়ার আর মানবতার ঢাক পেটানো একসঙ্গে কিছুতেই চলতে পারে না। ডঃ দাইসাকু ইকেদা-র শান্তি-প্রস্তাবের এই সব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নিকতলি বাবেকারেই প্রতিধ্বনিত হয় উপস্থিত বিশিষ্ট ব্যক্তিদের কথায়। আগামী পৃথিবীকে শান্তিময় জীবন উপহার দিচ্ছে দাইসাকু ইকেদা এবং সোকা গাক্কাই-এর নিরলস প্রচেষ্টা অব্যাহত দেশে দেশে। শান্তিপ্রিয় মানুষ আছেন তাঁদের সঙ্গে।

Peace proposal: Save world from conflicts, complications

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

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, Alokanda 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 a 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".

Alokanda Roy seemed to be hopeful to build a good environment in the society.

She 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 somebody, 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 ostracized,"

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 household works, what 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 joyously celebrate each other's progress.

He says, "It is through our efforts to awaken and savor 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".



কলকাতায় শান্তি সম্মেলন

KolkataTV.org

ভারত সকা গাঙ্কাইয়ের উদ্যোগে সম্প্রতি হয়ে গেল এক শান্তি সম্মেলন। সায়েন্স সিটি মিনি অডিটোরিয়ামে আয়োজিত এই সম্মেলনের মূল বিষয় ছিল মানবাধিকার রক্ষার্থে গণআন্দোলনের উপযোগিতা। উপস্থিত ছিলেন সংগঠনের প্রধান ভিশেষ গুপ্তা, ভারত সরকারের প্রাক্তন তথ্য সচিব জহর সরকার, রাজ্য মানবাধিকার রক্ষা কমিশনের বি এন রমেশ, নাটক ও চিত্র পরিচালক সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায় এবং বিশিষ্ট নৃত্যশিল্পী অলকানন্দা রায়।

মানবাধিকার ও তা অর্জনের নানা লড়াই, নানা সংগ্রামের বিভিন্ন দিক উঠে আসে বক্তাদের মন্তব্যে। একদিকে জেলবন্দীদের সংশোধনের কাজে তাঁর অভিজ্ঞতা তুলে ধরেন অলকানন্দা রায়, অন্যদিকে দীর্ঘ পুলিশী জীবনে সন্ত্রাস কবলিত এলাকায় কিভাবে শান্তি স্থাপনের কাজ করতে হয়েছে, তা বলেন বি এন রমেশ। জহর সরকার হাজির করেছেন যৌথ লড়াইয়ের প্রয়োজনীয়তা। আবার একজন সংবেদনশীল মানুষ হিসাবে শিল্পীর দোদুল্যমানতা ও সৃষ্টিশীলতার অন্তর্দ্বন্দ্ব ফুটে উঠেছে সুমন মুখোপাধ্যায়ের কথায়। সব মিলিয়ে এক সমৃদ্ধ ও বহুমুখী আলোচনায় ঋদ্ধ হয়েছেন উপস্থিত দর্শকরা।

दैनिक विश्वमित्र

• हिन्दी का प्राचीनतम राष्ट्रीय दैनिक •

मानवाधिकार पर परिचर्चा का आयोजन

कोलकाता, 13 जुलाई (नि.प्र.)। मानवाधिकार एवं विश्व शांति के उद्देश्य से आज यहां संगोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया। भारत सोक गवर्काई द्वारा आयोजित इस संगोष्ठि में बड़ी संख्या में लोगों ने हिस्सा लिया। कई गणमान्य अतिथियों ने सारगर्भित वक्तव्य रखा। इस मौके पर एसजीआई के अध्यक्ष दाईसाकु इकेडा के 2018 शांति प्रस्ताव

भारत सोका गवर्काई द्वारा आयोजित

दाईसाकु इकेडा के शांति प्रस्ताव द्वारा प्रेरित

शीर्षक 'मानवाधिकार के एक युग के प्रति : जन आंदोलन का सृजन' पर चर्चा की गई। महानगर के साइंस सिटी मिनी ऑडिटोरियम में आयोजित इस परिचर्चा सत्र में फिल्म निर्माता सुमन मुखोपाध्याय, नृत्यांगना एवं समाजसेविका अलोकानंदा राय तथा अतिरिक्त महानिदेशक एवं पुलिस महानिरीक्षक डा. बी.एन. रमेश ने वक्तव्य दिया। कार्यक्रम में पूर्व संस्कृति सचिव जे. सरकार ने मूल वक्तव्य दिया। इस अवसर पर संस्था की एक्सटर्नल रिलेशन्स की प्रमुख राशि आहूजा भी उपस्थित थीं। इस अवसर पर भारत सोका गवर्काई के चेयरपर्सन विशेष गुप्ता ने कहा कि जब कोई दूसरों को कष्ट में देखें तो उसे उनके प्रति सहानुभूति होनी चाहिये तथा उनके खुशहाल बनने की कामना करनी चाहिए। इस तरह की सोच एवं समझ के विस्तारण से शांति के इस आंदोलन को बल मिलेगा तथा दुनिया भर के लोग एकजुट हो सकेंगे। यूनिसेफ की 'अ चाइल्ड इज अ चाइल्ड' शीर्षक वाली रिपोर्ट में इकेडा ने कहा कि एक बच्चे के अधिकारों एवं महत्व की समान रूप से रक्षा की जानी चाहिये, चाहे वह शरणार्थी हो या अल्पसंख्यक। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रौद्योगिकी एवं आधारभूत ढांचे ने लोगों को एक-दूसरे से जुड़ने में मदद की है। मानव समाज में अलगाव को तभी कम किया जा सकता है, जब लोग एक-दूसरे की प्रगति देकर खुश हो। उन्होंने सम्मिलित समाज के सृजन के लिये महिला सशक्तिकरण के महत्व पर बल दिया, क्योंकि इससे बहनीय विकास को प्राप्त करने के साथ ही शांतिपूर्ण वातावरण का भी सृजन होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि महिला सशक्तिकरण वैकल्पिक एजेंडा नहीं हो सकता है : यह भयावह परिस्थितियों में कई लोगों के लिये आवश्यक प्राथमिकता होती है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर भी बल दिया।



साइंस सिटी में भारत सोका गवर्काई की ओर से आयोजित कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए संस्था के चेयरपर्सन विशेष गुप्ता। साथ में हैं फिल्म निदेशक सुमन मुखोपाध्याय, एडीजी डा. बी.एन. रमेश, पूर्व केन्द्रीय संस्कृति सचिव जे. सरकार, नृत्यांगना अलोकानंदा राय व राशि आहूजा। विश्वमित्र

Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement

Kolkata | Friday, Jul 13 2018 IST

NetIndia123

The Complete News Portal

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. Alokanda 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, Alokanda 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 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 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.

'Promoting forgiveness, going beyond clash of identities necessary for world peace'

NERVE.IN

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Bharat Soka Gakkai organizes 'peace symposium'

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.



"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. (Image Credit: Twitter)

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.

Peace symposium

Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian arm of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI), sends a peace proposal to the United Nations every year. This year it organised a symposium on July 13 at the Science City auditorium. Chairperson of BSG Vishesh Gupta, director of BSG Rashī Ahuja, former cultural secretary Jawahar Sircar, former additional director general and inspector general of Kolkata Police in WB Human Rights Commission BN Ramesh, filmmaker Suman Mukhopadhyay, social activist and dancer Alokanda Ray were present at the event. The theme of the event centered around Soka Gakkai chief Ikeda Sensei's address, which was one of the highlights of the peace proposal that said, "...living in peace and dignity is not beyond our reach". It was resolved that peace can only be attained through practical and concrete solutions to discrimination of gender and social divides, rehabilitation, education and health issues of migrant and refugee children, environmental, etc.

Promoting forgiveness, going beyond clash of identities necessary for world peace

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The Telegraph India

Practice, chance and peace



(From left) Filmmaker Suman Mukhopadhyay; BN Ramesh, additional director general and inspector general of police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission; Vishesh Gupta, the chairperson of Bharat Soka Gakkai; former Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar; dancer Alokanda Roy and Rashi Ahuja, director and head of external relations, Bharat Soka Gakkai at the conference at Science City on Saturday. Picture by Bishwarup Dutta

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 Alokanda 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 pelted 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



Symposium talks path to humanistic society

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 JULY

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Held at Mini Auditorium, Science City, Kolkata, the main points of the proposal were discussed by eminent speakers, Mr. Suman Mukhopadhyay, Film Maker and Theatre Activist, Ms. Alokanda 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, Government of India.

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In his proposal, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasises that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities

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."

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