



BHARAT SOKA GAKKAI



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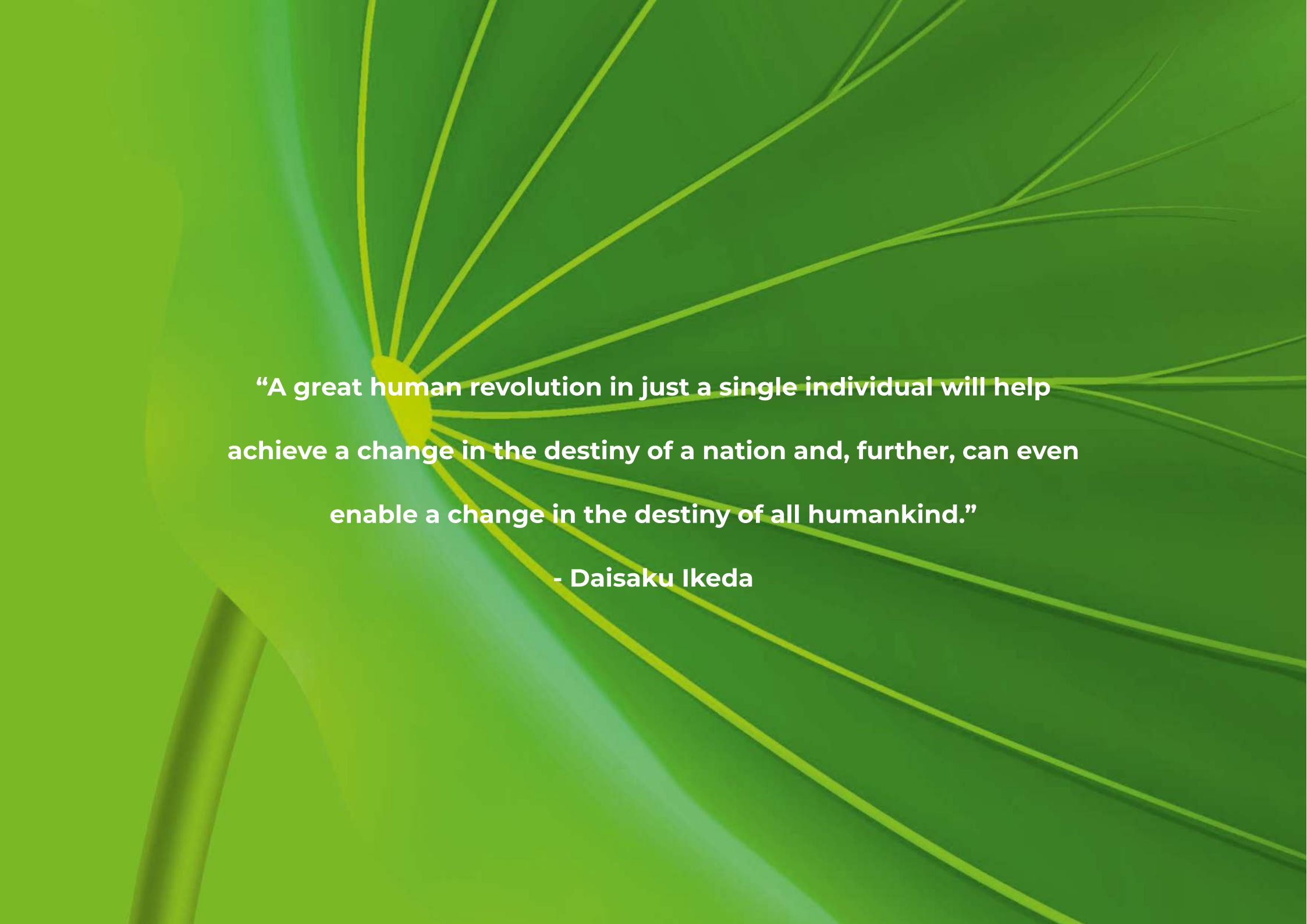
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**BHARAT SOKA GAKKAI**

*empowering individuals*





**“A great human revolution in just a single individual will help  
achieve a change in the destiny of a nation and, further, can even  
enable a change in the destiny of all humankind.”**

**- Daisaku Ikeda**



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# BHARAT SOKKAI GAKKAI

Established in January 1986, Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) is working towards the goal of creating a New Age in India and a New Global Civilization by focusing on 'empowering individuals'. Members of BSG work on their 'human revolution', or inner transformation in all areas of their life, thereby creating a culture of cherishing and respecting the dignity of all life.

BSG activities center around peace initiatives, cultural exchanges, humanistic education, and sustainability efforts, which help all members inculcate the spirit of 'global citizenship', or an understanding and empathy towards all life on Earth.



1 PEACE

Peace is not created by nations alone. Peace is created by individuals. Each life at peace with itself will drive harmony across the world.

2 CULTURE

Music and culture are elements of life that have no barriers, no borders. Music and culture unite all people, they bring people together.

3 EDUCATION

With 'Humanistic Education' at the heart of all activities, BSG is striving to create a world where all can be happy and free.

4 SUSTAINABILITY

Under the 'BSG for SDG' initiative, members are striving to adopt 'sustainable human behaviour' to achieve the SDGs by 2030.



# Bharat Soka Gakkai: An Overview

Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), which has its headquarters in New Delhi, is the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organizations with more than **12 million members in 192 countries and territories**.

BSG is dedicated to the goal of promoting the values of happiness and respect for all through various activities under the pillars of **peace, culture, education, and sustainability**.

- BSG has **more than 270,000 members** who are spread across **600 towns and cities of India**, and belong to all age groups.
- In 7 years (**from 2014-2021**), BSG membership has increased by **74%**.
- More than **135,000 members of BSG are youth**, with an average age of 27 years.

- More than **6,000 members of BSG are educators**.

The philosophy of 'Soka Humanism' upheld by BSG, and its motto of 'Empowering Individuals' is centred around the spirit of 'respecting the dignity of all life'. It is intrinsically aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which focus on 'leaving no one behind'.

The word 'Soka' in Soka Gakkai means 'Value Creation' and 'Gakkai' means organization. Members of BSG focus on creating value each day by undergoing their 'human revolution' and initiating inspiring actions in their daily life to create a peaceful and sustainable world. BSG's movement for peace is based on the concept of 'humanistic education' for 'global citizenship'.



BSG Headquarters, New Delhi



Delhi Area Level Meeting, January 2020



BSG Statistics Department Inaugural Meeting, April 2015



## ABOUT DAISAKU IKEDA



BSG's activities are based on the ideals upheld by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, who champions the cause of 'Soka Humanism'.

Daisaku Ikeda (1928—) is a peacebuilder, philosopher, educator, author and poet. For over 60 years, Ikeda has promoted a culture of peace where differences are treasured and in which dialogue and exchange create bridges that link people's hearts. He has dedicated his entire life to eradicate misery from this earth - fulfilling the ardent wish of his mentor Josei Toda.

Believing that dialogue holds the key to building bonds of peace and friendship, he has engaged in discussion with over 1600 world leaders, thinkers, scientists, artists, historians and scholars - forging the bonds of friendship across cultures.

He has published more than 250 books in the form of dialogues, philosophical writings, novels, essays, poetry, and children's literature. Many of his works have been published in more than 45 languages. He has received more than 400 honorary doctorates from institutes and universities from around the world including 19 doctorates from India. He has been awarded over 800 honorary citizenships from cities around the world.

In order to create a lasting foundation for the creation of world peace, President Ikeda has founded several institutions and universities in Japan and other parts of the world. Since 1983, President Ikeda has authored an annual peace proposal that breaks away from a predictable, theoretical framework to offer practical, workable solutions to questions of human security and world peace.



## About BSG's Philosophy of Soka Humanism



BSG members focus on undergoing their human revolution by basing themselves on the writings of President Ikeda, engaging in one-on-one dialogues with others, and participating in various BSG meetings held from time to time.

BSG members carry out their daily practice at home, but also meet regularly with other members in their communities in 'Discussion Meetings'. Participants in these meetings share their experiences of undergoing their human revolution in the

various challenging situations of life, solidify their understanding of the Soka philosophy, and participate in cultural activities to spread joy and hope.

### HUMAN REVOLUTION

"Human revolution" is the term used by Second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda (1900-58) to describe a fundamental process of inner transformation whereby we break through the shackles of our "lesser self," bound by self-concern and the ego, growing in altruism toward a "greater self" capable of caring and taking action for others. President Ikeda defines the



concept of human revolution as follows:

"Human revolution is a revolution in our actions and behaviour. It means to purposefully engage in behaviour that is grounded in compassion." He adds: "In other words, human revolution is opening your eyes wide and looking beyond your ordinary concerns, striving for and dedicating your actions to something higher, deeper, and broader." He says: "When human revolution spreads to the family, the country, and the world, it becomes a noble and bloodless revolution for peace."

## HUMANISTIC EDUCATION

President Ikeda upholds the belief that education has a profound mission within society. He observes that the values that underlie education, shape individuals and society, for better or for worse. The development of a humanistic, nurturing society largely depends on a humanistic orientation in education, one that directs people toward the richness of their inner lives and the interdependence of their lives with the lives of others and with the planet itself.



Small Group Discussion Meeting, December 2015

## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Global citizenship is not determined merely by the number of languages one speaks, or the number of countries to which one has travelled. President Ikeda shares the following three points that define the essential elements of being a



BSG Mumbai Members, August 2015

'Global Citizen': 1) The wisdom to perceive the interconnectedness of all life; 2) The courage not to fear or deny difference; but to respect and strive to understand people of different cultures, and to grow from encounters with them; 3) The compassion to maintain an imaginative

empathy that reaches beyond one's immediate surroundings and extends to those suffering in distant places.

BSG empowers its membership to develop this spirit of 'global citizenship'

through a broad range of activities. At the heart this is the spirit highlighting the common human bond we all share, promoting values of tolerance and mutual respect and the celebration of diversity.



Youth Division Meeting, February 2019

**“Peace is not something to be left to others in distant places. It is something we create day to day in our efforts to cultivate care and consideration for others, forging bonds of friendship and trust in our respective communities through our own actions and example.”**

**Daisaku Ikeda**



BSG Chairperson Mr Vishesh Gupta felicitating Mr P Gopichand, Peace Symposium Hyderabad, July 2016



Awardees at Change Maker Humanity Award, March 2022

19 pandemic. An eminent Jury panel selected 29 awardees in 16 categories from the nominations that were received.

BSG also seeks to foster a culture of peace through exhibitions that tour the country reaching out to students, academicians, artists and others, highlighting a common

humanity and the power that even one individual has to effect change.



BSG Chairperson Mr Vishesh Gupta felicitating Fmr President Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Peace Symposium New Delhi, September 2018

## PEACE INITIATIVES

BSG organizes various peace symposiums, webinars, and conferences, that are centred on President Ikeda’s annual Peace Proposals, with thoughts shared by eminent panel of speakers from different walks of life, including educators, social entrepreneurs, poets, artists, doctors, sportspersons, etc.

In 2022, BSG, in association with JNU (Jaipur National University) launched the ‘Change Maker Humanity Award’ to recognize and honour the efforts of those who provided selfless support to society during the Covid-





BSG General Meeting (Cultural Performance),  
December 2019

## CULTURAL EXCHANGES



Cultural Festival at Inauguration of Ikeda Auditorium, September 2019



BSG General Meeting (Cultural Performance), December 2019

For BSG members, Art and Culture are more than forms of entertainment. They are the living expression of the human spirit and the chords that connect not only the individuals, but cultures drawing them together in recognition of our common humanity.

BSG members participate in cultural activities to promote the values of friendship, hope and happiness for all.

BSG Arts Division, comprising of professionals in the field of music and

performing arts, participate in various cultural activities to bring people together through the canvas of the stage.

BSG has over 1,000 professionals from the performing arts industry who have been focusing on spreading the message of happiness, peace and sustainability.



BSG Cultural Festival, November 2014

**“Great art reaches out beyond ethnic and national barriers to move people all over the world.”**  
**Daisaku Ikeda**





## EDUCATION INITIATIVES

**“What our world most requires now is the kind of education that fosters love for humankind, that develops character—that provides an intellectual basis for the realisation of peace and empowers learners to contribute to and improve society.”**

**Daisaku Ikeda**

With its over 6,000 Education Division members spread across the country, BSG has been working on fostering and raising educators across institutes who focus on imparting ‘humanistic education’ to all, which has a special focus on the ‘happiness of the individual’.

One area of particular focus is ‘Soka Education’, based on the vision of the founding presidents of the Soka Gakkai - Tsunesaburo Makiguchi and Josei Toda.

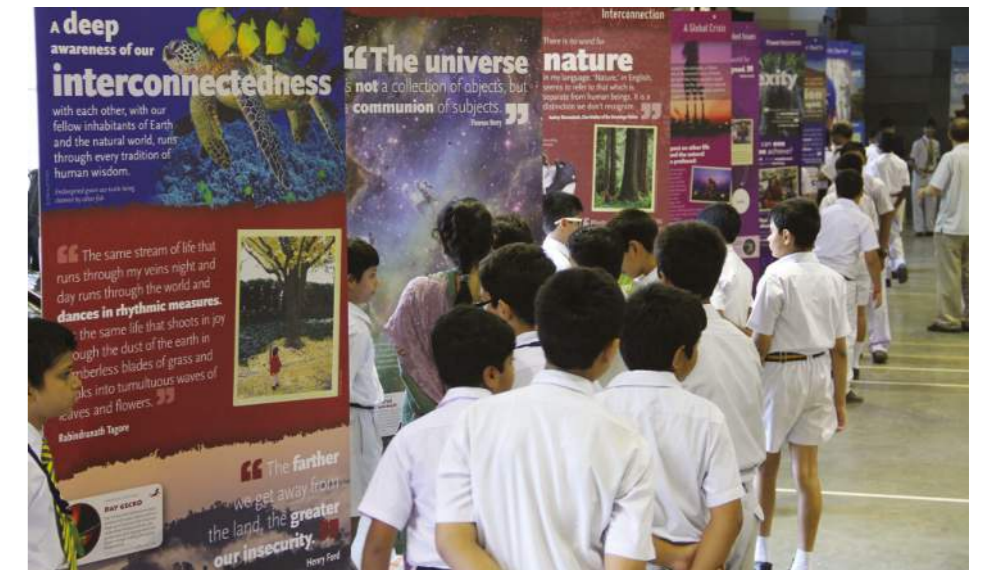
BSG Education Division members have conducted a range of interactive activities including discussions, workshops, exhibitions, and seminars in various schools and colleges.

In addition, Campus Groups and Peace Clubs have been initiated in several institutions to provide a platform to the students to learn from each other and create a shared vision for building a better future together.



Gandhi, King, Ikeda Exhibition, New Delhi, April 2016

Schoolchildren viewing the panels of 'Seeds of Hope' Exhibition





Bi-monthly Newsletter titled 'SUSTAINABLE'

Responding to President Ikeda's expectations and to fulfil his vision of creating a sustainable new age by 2030, BSG launched the 'BSG for SDG' initiative in 2021.

To build such a world where the dignity of all life is respected, BSG has been undertaking various activities under the banner 'Towards 2030: Achieving SDGs through Sustainable Human Behaviour'.



## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

- Roughly 1 out of every 500 members in BSG is working directly or indirectly in the field of Sustainability in various sectors.
- BSG's 'SDG Ambassadors' - a group of over 330 members, is taking lead in generating awareness and creating inspiration around the SDGs.
- Since 2021, BSG has been organizing an exhibition titled 'Seeds of Hope & Action (SOHA)' in various institutes of India. The exhibition raises awareness amongst the young students on climate change, the SDGs and the role of youth.
- SDG Clubs have been initiated in institutes which are designed to raise and foster SDG leaders in society.

- BSGs bimonthly newsletter titled 'SUSTAINABLE' is based on themes such as "Youth and Sustainability", "Women Empowerment", and "Climate Change".
- BSG is raising awareness on the 17 SDGs via articles in its monthly organ journal – 'Value Creation Times' with a readership of close to 50,000 BSG members.
- Short, curated videos on SDGs are available on BSG's official YouTube and social media pages.
- BSG launched a mobile app and website 'BSG for SDG' in 2022. This serves as a platform to learn, connect, and contribute towards SDGs.

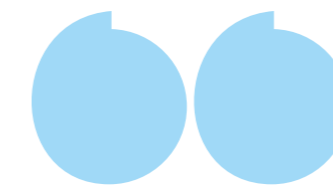
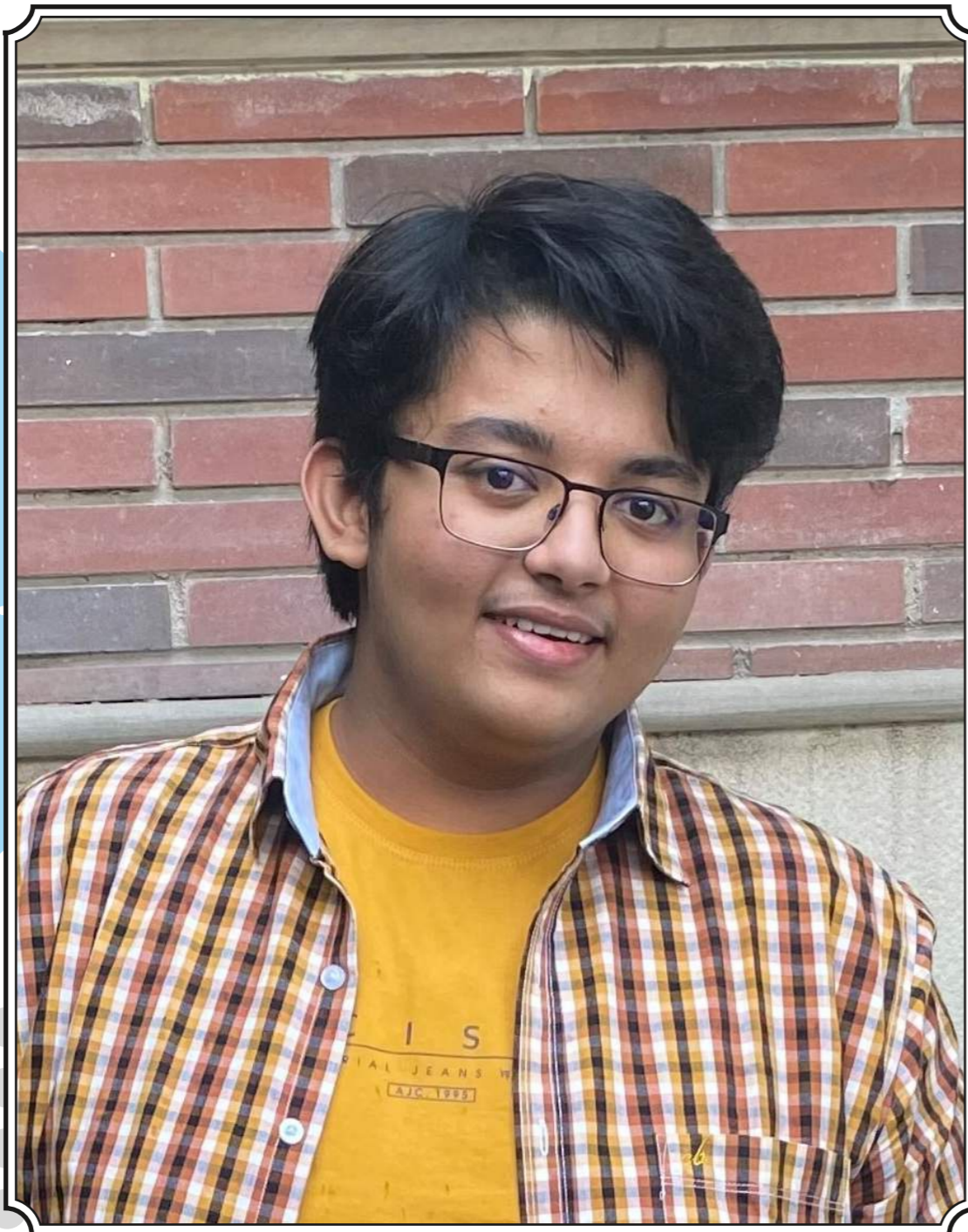


**“The members of the SGI have been cooperating with the UN to raise awareness on issues relating to environment and to promote an ethic of global citizenship. Our stance is not that of bystanders, watching to see whether the UN will succeed or fail. Rather, we want to focus on developing a deeper sense of responsibility—what can and should we do to enable the UN to function effectively”.**

– Daisaku Ikeda

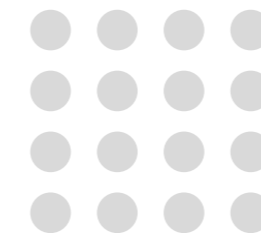
MEMBER  
*stories*

Chayan Sinha  
20, Delhi



In April 2021, my whole family tested positive for Covid-19. We rushed my mother to a hospital when her oxygen saturation started to fluctuate. Soon my father also showed low oxygen saturation and needed immediate hospitalisation. Their condition quickly turned from bad to worse, but my fellow BSG members constantly supported me through this difficult phase.

*President Ikeda says, “Life is indeed impermanent — but simply being aware of its impermanence is no solution. Despairing over this reality also serves no purpose. The question is how we can create eternal value in this fleeting existence.”*



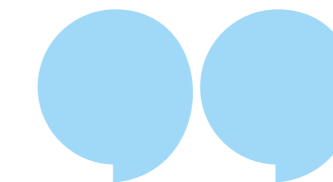
I was devastated when on 18th April, the doctor treating my father informed us my father's heart failed and he was no more, I couldn't believe it. I was shattered that I would never see him again! More sorrow was in store as just 8 days later my mother also passed away battling till her last breath. Inconsolable, I broke into tears. Various thoughts ran through my mind. But then I recalled my mother's happy face and the memory melted away my despair. BSG had helped me develop

the spirit of never being defeated, and this made me resolve to continue to move forward no matter what happens.

President Ikeda says, “Life is indeed impermanent — but simply being aware of its impermanence is no solution. Despairing over this reality also serves no purpose. The question is how we can create eternal value in this fleeting existence.”

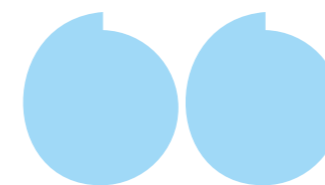
I finally made peace with the demise of my mother and father, and I resolved to repay my debt of gratitude to them throughout my life by continuing to work for the happiness of humanity in the field of computer engineering.

I truly feel my parents' presence in my life, every day, every moment, and am determined to fulfil all their hopes and dreams and their implicit belief in me.

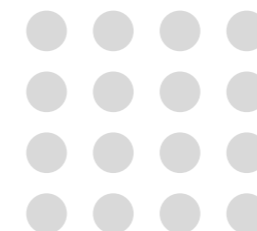


# MEMBER *stories*

Sanghamitra Dubey,  
33, Odisha

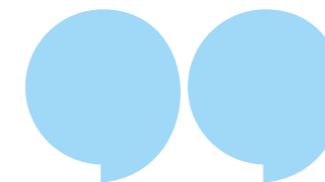


Coming from a lower middle-class family I had to struggle a lot financially. There were days when I barely managed to afford three meals a day. I wanted to be like everyone else – get admission in a B- school and get a comfortable life. Encountering President Ikeda completely changed my perspective towards life. Rising above his personal challenges as a young man he continued working for humanity and has created history. This inspired me to work for marginalised people in India and to actualise President Ikeda's Peace Proposals which he authors every year.



*SGI President Ikeda says: "Women hold the key to opening a future filled with hope, as Mahatma Gandhi emphasized: "If by strength is meant brute strength then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior... If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with women.""*

I started working as a social worker for the protection of tribal rights in Odisha. As a woman, I faced many difficulties in this field as it required me to travel to the interior pockets of various Indian villages. But I was determined to meet the forest dwellers in their own homes to listen to their struggles. Their lives are very difficult, and I learned from them how with little resources one can be happy. Women forest dwellers are suffering the most. Violence against women in deep forest areas is highest as per the National Crime Records



Bureau report. SGI President Ikeda says: "Women hold the key to opening a future filled with hope, as Mahatma Gandhi emphasized: "If by strength is meant brute strength then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior... If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with women.""

I have big dreams on how I want to bring change in society. I have started documenting indigenous knowledge and wisdom, particularly from forest-dwelling women in remote pockets of Sundargarh, with the hope that it will serve as a directory for future generations. I am now involved with community action for Biodiversity Protection and conservation. One of the villages with whom I am working, has taken an initiative to revive lost species and planted native species to protect their biodiversity. This effort has been recognized widely and covered in regional media. This project is now being replicated in 15 more villages with the help of the esteemed 'Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust' which supports activities that contribute to sustaining and enhancing India's Ecological Security, through protecting, restoring and enriching natural ecosystems.