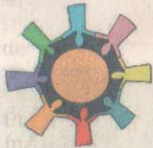


World delegates chant, spread peace mantra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: When delegates from across the world converged on one stage in an event to celebrate peace, varied experiences and memories emerged. Inspiring youth in the audience to contribute to world peace, speakers defined what global peace and unity means to them.



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For Laleh Busheri, the CEO of Prashanti Cancer Care Mission, it means no religious or sectarian boundaries. The thought was planted in her head when she was a mere 15-year-old. "Another young person asked me if I was a Shia or a Sunni. Not knowing the meaning, I went back to my mother and asked her the same. She told me, 'you are a human being'. That is what I have remembered all my life," said Busheri, now 50 years old.

Busheri was speaking at an ice-breaking session held at Chandigarh Judicial Academy in Sector 43, on the opening day of the 10th Global Youth Peace Fest 2015, being organized by NGO Yuvsatta.

Linking the achievement of the millennium development goals to the aspiration for world peace,



American Gandhi shakes a leg at an event during the peace festival in Chandigarh on Tuesday

Balish Ahuja

» **'Speak out, don't just sit back'**

Failing to find meaning in life, a number of youngsters take to social evils. A purpose in life would engage them in making their lives more meaningful, said youth icons who were given Youth Icon Awards. | P3

» **Conflicts connect these youth**

Youngsters participating in GYPF feel people-to-people contact is what can keep up peace-making efforts across the globe. And they know it, for, they come from conflicts zones. | P3

» **'I didn't have a father, but faith'**

Having been raised by a single mother, an unlettered woman, Deeka realized he could make a life for himself only if he gets education and pursue what he wants to. That is also the advice he gives to youth. | P3

Markandey Rai, advisor of UN Habitat, said each person had a key role to play in ensuring that we

strive to leave a better world for posterity.

Indra Udayana, who was given

the youth icon award last year, said the youth must take the message of peace back home and strive to

build their communities. He exhorted the youth to find the "leader" in them and take the baton in terms of nation building and establishment of peace. Sminu Jindal, who promotes accessibility for people with reduced mobility, said peace was all about inclusion. "Without inclusion, we cannot have real peace," she said.

Earlier, hundreds of youth from the city and across the world joined in prayers for world peace with UT administrator Kaptan Singh Solanki. He exhorted the youth from more than 30 countries assembled at the cricket stadium in Sector 16 to follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinobha Bhave.

National Youth project founder and veteran Gandhian, SN Subba Rao led them in chanting prayers from all religions. This was followed by a meditation session by Phra Niti and Phra Povit of the World Peace Initiative, Thailand.

"The importance of peace and inter-religious harmony was all the more relevant today as people from diverse religions and cultures interact with each other almost on a daily basis," said Solanki.

05/10/2015

More Accessible

Founder of NGO Swayam, Sminu Jindal announced on the opening day that it will work on making the City Beautiful more accessible in association with Yuvsatta | P3

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