

SGI President Meets Indian Prime Minister
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The spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, human rights, India's good neighbor policy and even poetry were subjects SGI President Ikeda discussed with India's Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral at his official residence today.

"In this year in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence, we have welcomed you to India," Prime Minister Gujral told President Ikeda. "Your visit serves to remind us in India anew of our duty to spread the spirit of Gandhi and its active application throughout the world."

The premier's parents were active in the independence movement, while Mr. Gujral himself joined the struggle when he was still in his early teens. As a university student, he was arrested and jailed for his involvement in the Quit India movement, a campaign to achieve self-rule from Britain. Mr. Gujral said that everything he and his colleagues are today pursuing they learned from Mahatma Gandhi, and that they are doing their utmost to ensure his legacy is carried on intact.

President Ikeda praised Mr. Gujral for remaining true to the ideals of his youth and making ceaseless efforts to improve the lives of the Indian people.

The SGI leader also commended Mr. Gujral's speech at the U.N. General Assembly last month, particularly what he said about human rights. In that address, the premier asserted that the universality of human rights "stems from the search in different civilizations for ways of protecting the human dignity of every individual." The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights next year, Mr. Gujral went on, will be an occasion for us to seriously reflect on whether the ideals enshrined in the declaration have become a reality for all people.

The conversation also touched on Mr. Gujral's policy to foster neighborly ties under a set of principles known collectively as the Gujral Doctrine. The first principle of this doctrine proclaims, "With its neighbors, India does not ask for reciprocity, but gives all that it can in good faith and trust." The core ethos of the Gujral Doctrine is understanding others' points of view.

The topic turned to poetry when Mr. Ikeda thanked the prime minister's wife, Shiela Gujral, for three anthologies she had sent him. President Ikeda said that her poems are "beautiful melodies of the heart" and expressions of her boundless love for humanity that cannot fail to touch those who read them. President Ikeda admitted to a special fondness for one of her poems, "Uphill Task," which reads:

*The lofty flight of ambition
lifts me up
I am no longer aware
of my shrunken size.
A miracle happens —
wading through the memories of
robust past
I recapture
the old Gandhian spirit
of right, against might.*

As he said his farewells, President Ikeda again expressed his respect for the 77-year-old

Mr. Gujral's indomitable advancement as a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and urged him to take good care of his health for the sake of both India and the world.

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