

## NEWSBRIEFS

### INDIA

#### **SGI President Receives First Tagore Peace Award**

NEWDELHI, India, Oct. 23 — Honoring SGI President Ikeda's "creative contribution to the development of human understanding toward peace," India's Asiatic Society conferred its first Tagore Peace Award on the SGI leader this morning.

The Asiatic Society researches an array of subjects concerning the people, culture and environment of Asia. The society created this award to promote peace based on the ideals upheld by the Bengali poet and first Asian recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941).

Asiatic Society General Secretary Amalendu De said that the SGI leader's life and works reveal his sole purpose to be contributing to the peace and welfare of society by promoting culture and education and opposing all forms of violence.

### INDIA

#### **South Asia Reps Meeting Held for the First Time**

NEW DELHI, India, Oct. 20 — Enthusiastic cheers from about 400 SGI members from throughout India, Nepal and Sri Lanka greeted President Ikeda tonight. This marked the start of the 1st SGI South Asia Representatives Meeting.

"Faith is a lifelong process," Mr. Ikeda said in his speech. "Like an ever-flowing stream of water, I hope that you will advance continuously and harmoniously together. It is my fervent wish that you will emerge victorious in every aspect of your lives. Please take care of your health. Do your best at work. Cherish your families. Respect and appreciate your partners."

Mr. Ikeda's closing words reflected his determination to encourage those assembled: "I say to you, my dear family, my brothers and sisters: Eternal friends in faith, maintain good health and lead magnificent lives!"

### INDIA

#### **New Delhi Friendship Centre Opens**

NEW DELHI, India, Oct. 19 — The Soka Bodhi Tree Garden was the site of the opening of the Ikeda Friendship Centre, located in Gurgaon, just south of New Delhi. It will serve as both a meeting facility for the Bharat (India) Soka Gakkai (BSG) members and a "friendship house" to welcome SGI members and guests from all over the world.

The unveiling of a memorial plaque engraved with a 1956 poem by second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda was held in the new center's lobby following the opening. (The plaque's inscription appears below.) President Ikeda spoke warmly, recalling the deep desire of his mentor, Mr. Toda, to see Asia united in the cause of world peace.

"Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing how much you have grown and the wonderful fortune that fills your lives," he said. "My mentor, Josei Toda, always prayed with all his heart for the happiness of the people of India. Since life and death are one and inseparable, I am firmly convinced as his disciple that he is watching joyously over this gathering today."

The inscription on the memorial plaque reads:

Title: South Asia reps meeting, India (Oct. 20)

Subject: World Tribune 11/14/97 n.3165 p.4 WT971114p04

Author:

Keywords: Asia Award Centre Delhi Dignitaries Events Exchanges Facilities First Friendship Ikeda

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*To the people of Asia  
Who pray for a glimpse of the moon  
Through the parting clouds,  
Let us send them, instead,  
The light of the sun.*

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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