

## Celebration of National Youth Day in India

Chung Shik Yong  
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**UPF India:** Universal Peace Federation of India celebrated the **National Youth Day of India** which is a day of the **Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda**. On this occasion UPF India organized two important events on 12 and 13 January, 2015.

### Day One

On 12th January a very significant seminar was organized at the conference hall of School of Social Sciences of IGNOU. The program was organized by the Center for Gandhi and Peace Studies under the School of Social Sciences.

The event began with the floral tribute at the portrait of Swami Vivekananda followed by the welcome and introductory speech by Prof. D. Gopal who is the Head of Center for Gandhi and Peace Studies as the Director SOSS, IGNOU and President of PWPA-India .



In the program the Prof. Swaraj Basu, Professor of History, Faculty of History at SOSS, IGNOU delivered the keynote address of the event on the topic: "Narandranath's Transformation in to Vivekananda: Remembering his Legacy" in which he highlighted the summary of the life of Vivekananda including some of his historical and landmark achievements in the history of mankind.

Dr. Robert S. Kittel, Director of UPF- Asia gave the presentation on UPF Vision on Youth for World

Peace in which he shared the UPF-Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon's idea of creating world of peace by fulfilling our purpose of life.

The presidential address was delivered by the UPF Aisia Chairman Dr. Chung Sik Yong in which he enlightened the audience on the similarity of the teaching of Swami Vivekananda and Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

Dr. Yong said: "I admire Swami Vivekananda because many of his ideas are in harmony with Father Moon's teaching: 1. They both believed that to service God, you need to serve humankind. 2. Tolerance and the universality of all religions where hallmarks and center-pieces of both of their philosophies. 3. A country's future, they both believed, depends on education and this education must combine both science and spirituality."

Dr. Yong elaborated each point with great wisdom and shared the idea of Father and Mother Moon to make all this 4 points real in this world. Emphasizing the tolerance and unity among all the great religion of the world he said, "... we clearly see the damage of religious extremism, we are beginning to understand the wisdom in Father Moon's calling for a religious council at the United Nation. I am sure Swami Vivekananda would agree with this."

On this very special occasion Peace volunteers from Japan sang a Hindi patriot song "Bande Ma taran" for honoring the Swami Vivekannada. The song was so heart touching and all participants sing together with them.





## Day Two

On 13th January, 2015 the second event to commemorate the **National Youth Day of India on the occasion of birth Anniversary of swami Vivekananda** was organized at the auditorium of India International Center. The theme of the event was **“Honoring the legacy of swami Vivekananda: Building World Peace”**.

Hon. Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, Minister, Minority Affairs from the Government of India was invited to deliver the inaugural address at this event.

The Program began with the floral tribute to the Swami Vivekananda’s portrait and by lighting the lamp by all the dignitaries on the dais.

Sharing the greetings on behalf of the Founder of UPF, Dr. Chung Sik Yong shared the similar speech of his first event on this program as well. Following the speech of Dr. Yong , a very short but strong message was delivered by Dr. Kittel, Education Director of UPF- Asia. He highlighted the present activities of UPF in India, particularly he shared the great response of the people of India toward recently conducted all state and union territories National Peace Tour by UPF under the leadership of Dr. Yong and with this sharing Dr. Kittel requested Hon/ Dr. Najma Heptulla to send her five representatives to Bangkok for the understanding the vision of UPF and work together to build world of Peace which can help India to solve myriads of problem that nation is facing today.



In her inaugural address, Dr. Najma Heptulla thanked UPF for organizing this significant event and she highlighted the life and work of teaching of Swami Vivekananda. In the program she was given the recognition and honour of Ambassador for Peace.

Other Speakers of the program were, Hon’ble Balmiki Prasad Singh, Former Governor of Sikkim and present Chairman of UPF-India, Shri Ashok Thakur Director, NAFED Shri. Shyam Jaju, National

Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party , Mrs. K Sudha, Principal of St. Thomas' School, Dwaraka and President of TARP- India, Dr. Promod Mehra, Asst. Professor of IGNOU and President of Youth Federation for World Peace-India.

Special songs were sang by Japanese Peace Volunteer form Japan and Students from DPS, RK Puram.



