



# IFUNA *News*

Published by Indian Federation of UN Associations, New Delhi

## WORLD POPULATION DAY

### Educate Women, Solve the Population Crisis

Indian Federation of United Nations Associations celebrated World Population Day on 11th July 2000. Present on the occasion were Minister of Health and Environment NCT of Delhi Dr. A.K. Walia, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Member Advisory Panel WHO, Dr. T. Walia, Health Administrator UNFPA, Mr. Charti Lal Goel, Former Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha and Mr. R.P. Sinha, former Member of Parliament. Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General IFUNA welcomed the guests. In his address he emphasised the urgent need to check population growth. He cited the example of China where stringent enforcement of the One-Child norm has resulted in a significant lowering of population growth rate, and urged India to emulate China in this regard.

Speaking on this occasion Dr. A.K. Walia said unless the women of India are educated, it will be difficult to control population growth. He cited the example of Kerala, a state which has achieved 100% literacy, and where literacy has helped control population growth perceptibly. The spread of literacy can greatly help check population growth in other states too. He also noted that "In Delhi where half the population lives in slums, implementing programmes for health care and birth control is an arduous task".

Sh. Charti Lal Goel, ex-Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha criticized the Govt. for celebrating the birth of the billionth baby in India. He said "It was an occasion of shame and retrospection rather than celebration. The

Government has been spending crores on health and welfare programming and still nothing is happening, I wonder where does all the money go?" Sh. Goel suggested that the government should give various incentives to people to adopt the one child norm. Children of those conforming with the norm should be awarded scholarships. He also emphasized the need for active participation of NGOs like Indian Federation of United Nations Associations in controlling the burgeoning population of the country.

Dr. T. Walia, Health Administrator at UNFPA in India, representing UNFPA in this function of IFUNA on 'World Population Day' highlighted the need for bringing down the mortality rate by preventing deaths during pregnancy along side implementing birth-control measures.

Dr. Vinod Kumar, Member WHO

advisory panel reiterated the need for concentrated efforts on the part of UN agencies to help bring down the rate of growth of population and improve the health status in developing countries. He said that programmes that incorporate the socio-economic factor will greatly help in bringing down the population figures. This aspect needs to be looked into to check population growth.

All the speakers mentioned the fact that the population growth curve was faltering in the developed world but was steadily increasing in developing nations like India.

Sh. S.P. Kalra, Vice President IFUNA moved vote of thanks. He said that the speakers have enlightened the audience on the problem of unprecedented growth of population and the gravity of this problem weighs heavily on overall development.



From Left: Mrs. Usha Krishna Kumar, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Hon'ble Dr. A.K. Walia, Sh. Suresh Srivastava, Sh. Charti Lal Goel, Sh. R.P. Sinha. Speaking on the occasion Dr. T. Walia.



## MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

Report on activities by  
Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General MUNA

### UN CHARTER DAY

MUNA Celebrated UN Charter Day on 26 June 2000. On this occasion acting chief justice of Mumbai High Court, Hon'ble Justice N.J. Pandya was the chief guest. The speaker stressed that India should be inducted into the Security Council of the UN as a permanent member.

### SOHRAB P. GODREJ MOURNED

Grieving Members of the MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION convened a public meeting on Thursday 25 July to mourn the sad demise of their revered and beloved President Shri. S.P. Godrej.

After observing 2 minutes silence, condolence resolution was passed which was forwarded to the Members of the Godrej family.

Enumerating the many sterling qualities of Mr. Godrej, Mrs. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson - Maharashtra United Nations Association, said that the most outstanding quality of Mr. Godrej was that he was extremely unassuming. He embodied the rare quality of simple living and high thinking in its truest sense.



*Seen in the photograph are hon'ble Justice N.J. Pandya, Justice R.A. Jahagirdar (Retd.), Mr. Vinay Rathi, Mr. Iqbal M Chagla, Dr. Lionel Fernandr, Mr. K.M. Abraham, President MUNA, Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General MUNA.*

Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, President IFUNA and former Minister of Central Govt., recollected his long association with Mr. Godrej and said that he was a fine human being who had great respect for his colleagues and friends.

The meeting was attended by the Godrej family members Mrs. P.J. Godrej, Mr. R.K. Naoroji and Mr. K.N. Naoroji.

Several Diplomats from the Consular Corps., Mr. Ireneusz Makies, Consul

General of Poland, Mr. U.P. Pane, Consul General of Indonesia, Mr. Hunar Dost, Consul General of Iran and Ms. Manel de Silva, Consul General of Sri Lanka also paid tribute to the departed soul.

Mr. A.A. Syed - Secretary General-MUNA, recalled the excellent work done by Mr. Godrej in the sphere of social welfare, environment preservation and inculcation of brotherhood amongst all sections of society.





*Sh. R.N. Mirdha President IFUNA paying tribute to Sh. S.P. Godrej. Second from the right Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General, MUNA and third from the right Mrs. Mohini Mathur, Chairperson, MUNA.*

## SOHRAB P. GODREJ

(1912-2000)

On 20 May, 2000 Sohrab P Godrej left for his heavenly abode. He was a multifaceted personality with interests ranging from Social Welfare to International Affairs, Mass media and Arts to Archaeology and Heritage conservation. As an Industrialist head of Godrej group his contribution not only to the success of Godrej Group but also the Indian Industry is commendable. He was President of International Chamber of Commerce India and Council of Chamber of Commerce in India.

He propagated his concern for what he called the "Holy Trinity"—Population, Environment and Development. He was involved in various environment protection projects. He was the President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature, involved in the mission to preserve Tiger—the national animal of India.

Mr. Godrej was President of Maharashtra United Nations Association for more than two decades. His stewardship of MUNA has resulted in putting Maharashtra UNA on a strong footing.