



# IFUNA *news*

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# MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

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Report by  
**Ms Mohini Mathur**  
Executive Chairperson

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## Seminar on "India and Japan's Permanent Membership in the Security Council of the United Nations"

**M**aharashtra United Nations Association, MUNA took an initiative to organize a seminar on most important topic — "India and Japan's Permanent Membership in the Security Council of the United Nations" — on September 21, 2004 at the Indian Merchant's Chamber.

At the outset, Ms. Pheroza Godrej, President MUNA welcomed the audience and said that the main aim of the security Council is to maintain peace. After the September 11, holocaust, the world is inundated by fear and negativity. She said reminding the global shock of inhuman terrorist activity in a remote corner of Russia, Besan, the only antidote seemed a reformed UN and United Nations Security Council to respond and act better to the threats to the World Peace.

Mrs. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairman, MUNA said that the seminar on this extremely vital topic of India and Japan's permanent membership in the Security Council of the UN was organized by MUNA because India strongly believes that by all objectives and criteria such as population, size of the economy, contribution to and participation in



From left to right: Mr A. A. Syed Secretary General MUNA; Mr M. S. Pai; Mr M. Menon; Ms Pheroza Godrej, President MUNA; Ambassador Prakash Jha, Ambassador of Japan; Ms Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson, MUNA; Mr Memon eminent lawyer; Mr K. M. Abraham, Vice-President, MUNA

the activities of the UN - INDIA has exemplary record of participation and contribution in peace keeping operations all over the world. India eminently qualifies to be a permanent member of an expanded Security Council.

She asserted that Japan is the 2nd largest economy in the world and large financial contributor to the United Nations. There were extremely distinguished speakers on the panel who had wide experience and deep insight in the working of the United Nations.

Ambassador, Prakash Shah delivered the key note address and enlightened the audience that the draft Security Council restructure was introduced in the UN 12/13 years ago by India. He said to succeed in to-day's world scene, one must think global and act global. A place on the high table of the UN

is to be taken seriously by the then and now super powers. India does have a wealth of expertise in the traditional domains like agriculture, core industries & services. It is a meaningful player in IT originated business above all it's vibrant democracy, polity and evokes respect worldwide.

The Hon'ble Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Yasukani Enoki maintained that a permanent membership on the Security Council was not only a matter of national pride for India, though that was a cause enough. It provided credibility and legitimacy to the Security Council which would otherwise face the charge of ignoring the representation of over a billion people — one fifth of the global population, the Ambassador asserted that Japan, China & India are the three major powers in Asia and they should all sit in the Security Council.



Mr. Majid Memon, eminent lawyer advocated that MUNA should pass a resolution that the Security Council, must admit India and Japan to its permanent fold he said India had the largest written constitution and India is on the threshold of might and it needs recognition in UNSC he averred.

Mr. Feroz Andhyarujina lawyer supreme court explained the detailed

procedure for bringing an amendment in the UN Charter, after illustrating the advances made by India in the field of information technology, Bio-Technology and telecommunications. That the Security Council should be restructured does not brook a debate, it is now the four countries (presently in the race — beyond the topic of the Seminar) Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have to go about their admittance.

Mr. A. A. Syed, Secretary General proposed a vote of thanks and the Seminar concluded with the hope that hurdles in the way of getting it's rightful place in the world body, though not in imminent sight of achievement, will gradually make for all round acceptance and accommodation.

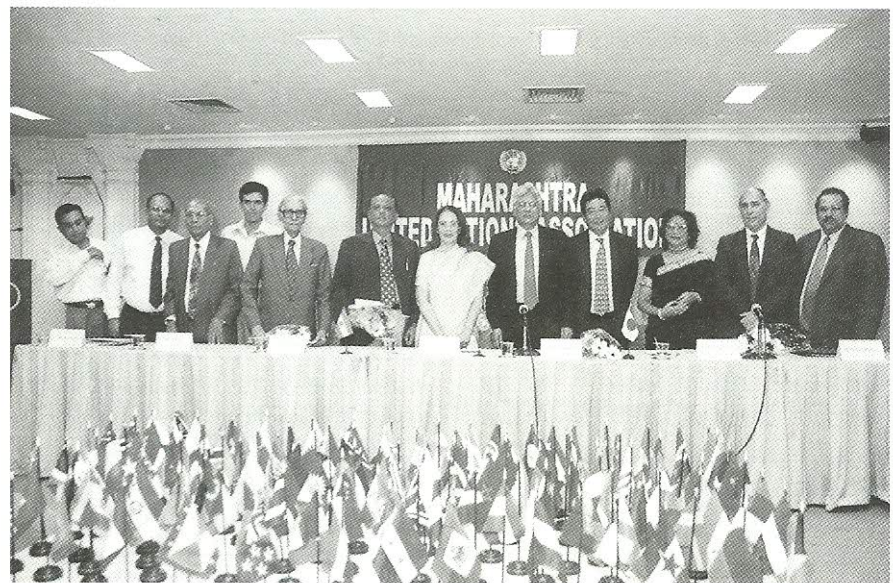
## UN DAY - 2004

Maharashtra United Nations' Association, MUNA had the rare privilege of celebrating UN Day 2004 at the Raj Bhavan in Bombay. The Dazzling, elegant Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan was full to capacity.

His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Fazal — the then Governor of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest and presided over the function. Mr. Dalveer Bhandari, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Maharashtra, Mr. V. S. Thorat, Advocate General of Maharashtra and Mr. Reuehlin Maarten, Consul General of Netherlands were the eminent speakers on the panel. Each speaker made brilliant presentation.

The evening started with tea and refreshments served at the elegant lawns of the Raj Bhavan by the side of the Arabian Sea. His excellency the Governor joined guests for tea and interacted with every one present. Army Band was in attendance throughout the evening.

The formal function started with a welcome address by President MUNA Ms. Pheroza Godrej, which followed the presentation of profile of MUNA by Ms. Mohini Mathur,



From left to right: Mr A.A. Syed Secretary General, MUNA; Mr V. A. Jhorat, Advocate General Maharashtra, Ms Pheroza Godrej President MUNA; H.E. Mr Mohammad Fazal, then Governor of Maharashtra Hon'ble Mr Dalveer Bhandari, Chief Justice of Maharashtra, Ms Mohini Mathur Exec. Chairperson, MUNA, Mr Reuchlin Maarten, Consul General of Netherlands

Chief Executive Chairman, MUNA, A very thought provoking key note address was delivered by Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Dalveer Bhandari. Mr. Reuchlin Maarten, Consul General of Netherlands, spoke about support his country extends to the United Nations and subscribes to the aims and objectives of the UN Mr. V. S. Thorat, Advocate General Maharashtra also elaborated on the significant role UN Plays in to-days context. His Excellency Mr. Mohamad Fazal, the then Governor

of Maharashtra delivered his presidential address which was followed by the Vote of Thanks from A. A. Syed - Secretary General of MUNA.

After a very meaningful, thought provoking panel discussion, there was lively music and dance programme for the audience.

In the end, National Anthem was played by the army band and guests including galaxy of Consul Generals



of different nations, academicians, members of judiciary, social activists and supporters of the United Nations left with the beautiful memories of the function.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - 2004

Maharashtra United Nations' Association, MUNA observed HUMAN RIGHTS DAY on 10th December, 2004 at the Patkar Hall.

It was an attempt of being different. MUNA collaborated with SNDT Women's University with the main objective of involving youth in our programme.

The response was overwhelming! Faculty members, Heads of departments and the student community were extremely enthusiastic to participate in this extremely topical issue - Human Rights. Full responsibility was given to the youth and they indeed rose to the occasion! A young student of Dept. of Political Science very ably compered the Programme.

Mrs. Justice Sujata Manohar, Member, National Human Rights Commission was the Chief Guest. Prof. Rupa Shah, Vice-Chancellor, SNDT Women's University was the Guest of Honour and eminent speakers were Mr. Subhash Avate - IPS, Special Inspector General of Police - and Member Maharashtra State Human Right's Commission and Mr Gopinath T. Menon - State Representative, UNICEF.

At the outset, students of SNDT Women's University sang the University invocation song which was followed by lighting of the lamp. Mrs Pheroza Godrej, President, MUNA,



From Left to right: Mr Subhash Avate IG Police, State Human Right's Commission, Ms Mohini Mathur, Exee. Chairperson MUNA, Mrs Justice Sujata Manohar Member National Human Rights Commission, Ms Pheroza Godrej, President MUNA and Prof. Rupa Shah, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Womens University.

welcomed - the dignitaries and the audience - Mrs. Mohini Mathur - Executive Chairman, MUNA elaborated on the activities of MUNA and informed the gathering about several programmes, debates and workshops, MUNA organized with the youth - She said 21st century belongs to the youth and it is very important to create awareness about the United Nations among young people, particularly about Human Rights and its relevance in to-day's scenario.

Mrs. Justice Sujata Manohar, delivered scintillating key note address which set the tone of the seminar. Prof. Rupa Shah in her speech complemented MUNA for involving SNDT Women's University in this very important event. She said it is a pioneering effort and the curtain has been raised and she said SNDT University will have many similar programmes with MUNA. Mr. Subhas Avate, IPS highlighted the role of Police in protecting human

rights and also the role State Human Rights Commission plays in the state of Maharashtra. Mr Gopinath T. Menon highlighted the vital role played by the UN and its various agencies.

Mr. A. A. Syed proposed a vote of thanks. The highlight of the event was very active participation of 500 students throughout the programme. They spoke on Human Rights in the form of poetry, songs and also brilliantly spoke about the Rights of Women and empowerment of women.

Suggestions, comments and articles are invited from readers for publication in 'IFUNA NEWS'. The articles should be on subjects related to United Nations and its Specialised Agencies.

'Editor'