

PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY'S FINEST HOUR-

Japanese PM receives the Academy's Global Award from Mr. L. K. Advani



Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe receiving Priyadarshni Academy's Global Award from Mr. L. K. Advani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India, at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, on Republic Day. Also seen in the picture are: Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, Ms. Pratibha Advani, and Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, Priyadarshni Academy

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received Priyadarshni Academy's prestigious Global Award at an exclusive and special ceremony at the Taj Palace in New Delhi on January 26, 2014 at the hands of Mr. L. K. Advani, former Deputy Prime Minister of India. The Japanese Prime Minister was in India as the first-ever Japanese Prime Minister to be Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations and to hold talks with Indian leaders. The Academy requested Mr. L. K. Advani to present to the award and he honored us by making the presentation to the Japanese Prime Minister. That the two had met before was significant. The award was presented by Mr. L. K. Advani to the Japanese Prime Minister for his outstanding contributions to strengthening Indo-Japanese relations.

The Japanese Prime Minister, in addressing Mr. Advani, expressed deep appreciation at receiving the award. He said that he had been invited to receive the award in 2012 but could not come because elections were announced in Japan. He said he was happy that he came as Prime Minister to receive the award rather than receiving it before becoming Prime Minister.

Mr. L. K. Advani stated, in his response to the Prime Minister, that the Prime Minister's visit was extremely encouraging for the development of ties on all fronts between India and Japan. He added that he was proud to present the award on behalf of Priyadarshni Academy and that the award represented the feelings of the people of the entire nation.



(From Left to Right) Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe, Translator, Mr. L. K. Advani, Former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Ms. Pratibha Advani, Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, and Mr. R. K. Vishwanathan, Advisor.

Priyadarshni Academy in Japanese Government's website



首相官邸

Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet



プリヤダルシュニ・アカデミー関係者と面会する安倍総理

Translation of the caption: Prime Minister Abe meeting with Priyadarshni Academy stakeholders

Since His Excellency took over as Prime Minister in December 2012, ties between India and Japan have witnessed an upward swing and are expected to grow much further on all fronts -- political, economic, educational, cultural, spiritual, and religious.

Needless to say, the presentation of the award to the Japanese Prime Minister is a huge boost to the Academy, especially to its Global Awards program. It appears that the Academy will go only one way from here – to new highs!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Niranjan Hiranandani

Priyadarshni Academy had its proudest and finest moments when it presented its prestigious Global Award to the Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe at the hands of Mr. Lal Krishna Advani, former Deputy Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister received the award for his outstanding contributions to strengthening Indo-Japanese relations. The award was presented at an exclusive and special function in the Tata Suite of the Taj Palace Hotel on January 26, Indian Republic Day. It was significant that Mr. Advani presented the award as both had met before. It was also an honor, both for Priyadarshni Academy and for the Japanese Prime Minister, as he himself stated, that he was receiving the award as Prime Minister rather than when he had agreed to come to the Priyadarshni Academy's biennial awards function in 2012 when he was not Prime Minister. He had regretted his inability to come at that time because he was in the midst of elections which subsequently brought him the Prime Ministership.

Both the Japanese Prime Minister and Mr. Advani spoke about the history of good relations that the two countries had had, the escalating relations since Prime Minister Abe took over, and the prospects for broadening and further

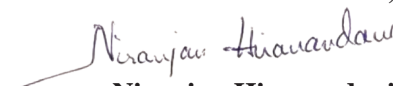
improving the relations. Mr. Advani said he was honored to present the award on behalf of Priyadarshni Academy and that the award represented the feelings of the entire nation.

With this extraordinarily successful event, the Academy has started the year on a high. We hope we can find opportunities during the rest of the year to climb higher.

A little earlier the same week, on January 21, the Academy had organized its annual 'National Integration through Music and Dance' event in the Jai Hind College auditorium through a program entitled "Sureela Safar... ..A Musical Journey with Kaajal and Aditi" which featured two outstanding musicians, Kaajal Chandiramani and Aditi Seth, both of whom have adorned the music scene in India and abroad through their versatile singing. They sang a wide variety of songs in Hindi, Punjabi, and Sindhi which were worth miles going to hear. Mr. Ashish Shelar, President, BJP, Mumbai was the Chief Guest. The program was well attended and the audience was regaled.

The annual 'Literary Awards and Scholarships' presentation event will held on February 25 at the Indian Merchants' Chamber. I hope I will get an opportunity to greet you there.

With the best of wishes,



Niranjan Hiranandani

Padma Vibushan Dr. R. A. Mashelkar



Dr. R. A. Mashelkar

Dr. Mashelkar did India proud and did Priyadarshni Academy proud on Indian Republic Day. In the newspapers on the 26th of January, his name figured prominently in the list of Padma Vibushan awardees. It was a great coincidence that the Priyadarshni Academy leadership was in New Delhi the very same day to present its Global Award to the Japanese Prime Minister. It was Dr. Mashelkar indeed, who, as Head of the Academy's Global Awards Committee, had strongly endorsed the nomination of Mr. Shinzo Abe in 2011 to receive the award. Mr. Abe became Prime Minister subsequently. The entire Priyadarshni family, as indeed the whole of India, extends its heartiest congratulations to the eminent scientist.

Dr. Mashelkar is the CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow at the National Chemical Laboratories in Pune where he was previously the Director. He has lectured in a number of universities, has obtained honorary doctorates in science and engineering from reputed institutions, and has been elected to prestigious academies and scientific bodies around the world. Among positions he has held include: Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, and Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi.

Dr. Mashelkar has a B.Chem. Engg. (1966), Ph.D. (1969) from the University of Bombay and Honorary Doctorates in Science and Engineering from a number of renowned institutions. He received the Padmashri in 1991 and Padmabhushan in 2000. We wish him more glorious successes in the future.

“Sureela Safar.....A Musical Journey with Kaajal and Aditi”

(NATIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH DANCE & MUSIC)
January 21 at the Jai Hind College Auditorium



Chief Guest Adv. Ashish Shelar, President, BJP Mumbai, lighting the lamp while Mr. Murli Adnani, Mr. Nanik Shivdasani, Mr. Nanik Rupani and Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani look on



Adv. Shelar addressing the audience



Kaajal in action



It is Aditi's turn



Performing in unison



Audience in all ears

Photo Gallery



Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, Priyadarshni Academy & Chairman, Mumbai Development Committee, Indian Merchants' Chamber at the meeting with Ms. Deepa Dasmunshi, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Urban Development on "Mumbai's Infrastructure Development Projects" organized by IMC.



A Dinner Get-together was organized by Mr. Chetan Mehta and Mr. Prabodh Mehta on 23rd November 2013 at The Oberoi, Dubai, in honor of Mr. Nanik Rupani during his visit there.



At the Dinner hosted by Dr. Kulin Kothari, eminent Ophthalmologist, on 11th December, 2013 at Kothari Terrace, Babulnath, on the occasion of Mr. Nanik Rupani's Birthday. Also in the picture are Mr. Hiranandani, Mrs. Minaxi Kothari and Dr. Saamil Kothari.



Dr. Kulin Kothari, Dr. P. S. Pasricha, Former Mumbai Police Commissioner & Director General of Police, Maharashtra state, Mrs. Jaywantiben Mehta, BJP Leader, and Mr. Rupani at the dinner.

PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - 2014

Priyadarshni Academy will organize its next Scholarship program on February 25, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Walchand Hirachand Hall, 4th Floor, Indian Merchants' Chamber, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020. The Academy since its inception has been awarding scholarships to meritorious and deserving students who pursue professional courses in Engineering / Medical / Information Technology /

Architecture / Management, etc. The program which started with a modest beginning has emerged gigantically with over Rupees 15 lakhs worth of scholarships awarded in each year in the last couple of years. Most of the scholarships are of Rs. 10,000/- each. It was possible only through the generous and voluntary contributions of philanthropists and well-wishers. This year also will see a similar amount being disbursed as scholarships.



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NON-VIOLENCE – THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL FOR PEACE AND HARMONY

- NANIK RUPANI

In a world torn apart continuously amidst terrorism, war, sabotage, espionage, kidnapping, suicide bombing, mistrust and fear of nuclear holocaust, there is a need for a force that can bond the entire mankind into one entity. However no such effective mechanism could be found which would benefit the mankind. So far only non-violence is found to achieve good results to a large extent.

Non-violence, according to Wikipedia, is defined as the practice of being harmless to self and others under every condition. It comes from the belief that hurting people, animals or the environment is unnecessary to achieve an outcome and refers to a general philosophy of abstention from violence based on moral, religious or spiritual principles. Non-violence is a powerful bond that can move mountains and bring together bitter enemies to leave behind their dangerous weapons of war and meet across the table with a warm, even though reluctant hand shake to sort out their differences in an amicable manner, at times through a mediator.

The pioneer of such a powerful force of non-violence was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi whose philosophy of non-violence touched almost all political leaders across the world. Mahatma Gandhi, as known widely, is called the father of independent democratic India and he proved to the rest of the world, how effectively we can use it. Even a super power like England had to buckle under its pressure, to yield to the will of the locals by declaring India its independence from long drawn slavery and suppression. One unique person with a high spirit of philosophical and political ideology who believed that all human beings are equal in the sight of God irrespective of their color, creed, religion and culture, brought about a bloodless revolution, to start with and united a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic groups as one united force to fight against oppression, depression and suppression of the legal heirs of Indian throne and crowned common man as the king-maker.

Gandhi is a systematic theorist and practitioner of Non-violence. He started his career in South Africa and returned to India in 1915 to lead India's freedom struggle against British Raj. At that time, India was the most brilliant jewel in the crown of the British Empire, gifted with riches such as the Kohinoor Diamond and other gems, spices, cotton, sugar, indigo, calico and raw silk - too good riches to be given up easily. He perhaps was aware of Henry David Thoreau, a noted philosopher in USA who in 1849 had written a remarkable treatise on Non-violent action called "Civil Disobedience"

Non-violence is a non-violent action aimed at creating social, dynamic or political movement that can effect social change in the mind set of people across the globe, so that mankind can live in harmony with his fellow beings and bring about joy and happiness to all, even the most downtrodden caught up in poverty, evil of caste system & terrorism including human suicide bombers.

The power of non-violence sends a chill through the spine of notorious leaders who depend on brutal force to suppress their

subjects and neighboring enemies. The rise and fall of Saddam Hussain, Fidel Castro, Mao Tse Tung, Hitler, Stalin & others remind us that military intervention can kill only innocent people including children, women and the elderly and destroy property without yielding any result.

Mother Teresa has beautifully explained the intrinsic value of non-violence by stating "We do not need guns and bombs to bring peace, we need love and compassion."

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was committed to bringing about change in the great nation of USA, by staging peaceful protests to get civil rights restored to African blacks who were once brought in as slaves. The very man who preached and practiced non-violence sacrificed his life, just like Gandhi, to extremist's bullets. Today African Americans are reaping the fruits of the seed sown by Martin Luther King.

Non-violence was used as a powerful tool by Alice Stokes Paul, an American suffragist and women's rights activist, in leading a successful campaign for 10 years to achieve women's rights to vote in USA that resulted in the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.

Gautama Buddha who lived in the sixth century B. C. became an ascetic after leaving his princely state and luxury in search of peace. He prayed and fasted continuously until he was "enlightened" and then started teaching his followers. He laid emphasis on non-violence and compassion in his teachings. Universally acclaimed as a humanitarian and a messiah of ahimsa (non-violence), spiritual leader Dada Vaswani has captivated the hearts of millions worldwide by symbolizing the true spirit of the India of the rishis as a harbinger of love, peace and hope. Animal lovers revere and admire him as an apostle of non-violence for the cause of reverence for all life.

Priyadarshni Academy, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in India, in its 29 years of service to society, is committed to promote peace, non-violence and harmony among all human beings especially among the youth. True to its motto, "Service to Humanity is the best work of life", encourages and acknowledges peaceful efforts in serving the humanity. In its prestigious biennial Global Awards Program in the year 2010, Mr. Martin Luther King III, president and CEO of King Center for Non-violent Social Change, Atlanta, USA was awarded a Global Award for his outstanding contribution to the Promotion of Human Rights.

Though man has become more cultured and civilized now and is seeking intervention of communication across the table to sort out bitter differences, still a lot of violence engulfs all nations. We should spread the message of non-violence to save humanity from the clutches of all evil acts like terrorism, nuclear annihilation and suicide bombings. Life is precious and is a Gift of God given to mankind to love and to cherish with the aim of helping mankind. Non-violence holds the golden key which can open the treasure chest of love and compassion.



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