

**SPEECHES
OF
PRESIDENT
GIANI ZAIL SINGH**

**VOLUME II
(1985-1987)**

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About This Volume

An individual is best understood from what he speaks. Speeches of President Giani Zail Singh reveal the man he is. His speeches dwell on all round economic development, accelerated industrial and agricultural advancement and the Nation's march on the path of self-reliance. Yet he has always pleaded for the kind of development, that eliminates poverty and backwardness. Only this will pave the way for removal of economic and social disparities and evolution of an egalitarian social order. That is why when he speaks, the masses feel that he is one of them.

The President of India represents the Nation. Nation looks on to him for guidance. The Presidents of India have guided the country as ultimate preservers and upholders of the constitution and enshrined democratic institutions and values. Our Presidents have laid down conventions and healthy traditions that will guide and enlighten the posterity. India is fortunate that very noble and able men have donned the mantle of incumbant of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Even a perfectly engineered computer could not have offered a better choice. Giani Zail Singh is seventh in the fine tradition of Indian Presidents.

Yet his uniqueness lies in that he belongs to grassroot strata of the society. His keen desire to know India drove him to people of all parts of the country. He has visited Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and numerous other far flung and interior areas. For him a tiny village is as important as a metropolis and therefore due attention should be paid to its development. He invariably voices the concern for the poor, the deprived, the foresaken, the downtrodden and the marginalised. That explains why he is so close to the hearts of the people.

The book in hand comprises his selected speeches for the period 1985-87 covering a wide range of subjects. Like its predecessor, this volume also has been divided into ten chapters for the convenience of our readers. Since it is ongoing work, the style and broad format of the volume is same.

Our first volume had been well received by different segments of our readership. It is our expectation that this volume also will be welcomed by teachers, students, researchers, and scholars of diverse shades.

—Editor

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Think Globally

I AM HAPPY to be amongst you, who have come from different parts of the country and the world to attend this Second Provisional World Parliament organised by the World Constitution and Parliament Association towards bringing a new world order.

World Order or a world perspective is not new to us in India. Our sages, saints, gurus and philosophers from time immemorial have affirmed *Vasudaiva Kutumbakam*, all humanity as one family. This is the essence of all religions which have proclaimed unity of God-head and universal brotherhood and we all are one.

A question naturally arises “why this strife, war and conflict all around”? why should man stress on differences and diversity and forget the essential unity in this apparent diversity? But history of mankind and evolutionary trends reveal that humanity is aspiring and fast progressing towards realising this essential unity.

Past evolution indicates that nature and its processes have created large and more complex aggregates from family to clan, clan to tribe, to city and to larger groups at different times and finally to national units.

The legitimate question is whether the nation, the largest natural unit which humanity has been able to create and maintain for its collective living, is also its last and ultimate unit, or whether a greater aggregate will be formed which will embrace many nations and finally all the nations. The present functioning of the United Nations is indicative of human endeavour in this direction.

There is another factor moving this process forward, namely the development of modern transport and communication, which is making humanity into one community, life is any part of the world affects life in the whole world in a way that was impossible at the beginning of this century. Yet each part of the world feels separate in its culture, political tendencies and economic behaviour, despite the repercussions of events and movements in other parts of this world. It is no longer possible for a part of the world to isolate itself from the world as a whole. In a way this is unity of humanity amidst diversity.

Speech at inauguration of Second Provisional World Parliament organised by the World Constitution and Parliament Association, New Delhi, March 17, 1985

In this context, I would like to refer to what our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi said from this very platform in 1981: "The world is becoming more and more inter-dependent". Development in communications, problems of equitable distribution of the world's natural resources and the common dangers posed by the increase in conventional and nuclear armaments demand that mankind must act as one. A just international order is inescapable necessity for man's survival".

As chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, India is working in cooperation with other nations to achieve a just world order based on equity and justice so as to reduce tensions and resolve conflicts between member states through peaceful means. The single most important challenge today is the threat of Nuclear War and I see on the agenda of your Parliament the bill to outlaw nuclear weapons. The leaders of Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and India collectively called upon the nuclear weapon States to declare a nuclear freeze and to substantially reduce nuclear stockpiles. Recently these leaders met in New Delhi to take further action to contain the nuclear threat. In this context the renewal of talks in Geneva between the two major powers, I hope, would lead to meaningful results.

Some global problems receiving attention in your deliberations, like problems of environmental deterioration and diminishing forests are of urgency and importance in our country also. The slogan, "Think globally, Act locally" is well reflected in your activities. The interdependence of nations is a basic fact of our times and international cooperation must be accepted as a necessity. For this purpose, non-government organisations such as this can play a concrete role. Your efforts to bring out a Constitution for the Federation of Earth are laudable.

It was said that "If you want peace upon earth, first establish peace in your heart. If you want unity in the world, first unify the different parts of your being". This saying is full of relevance and I do hope that the spirit of it will get an increasing measure of support and acceptance in the world. May your deliberations here prove to be a step forward in this direction.

With these few words, I conclude by thanking Shri Sat Paul Mittal Chairman of the Organising Committee for inviting me to open this Second Provisional World Parliament.