Jaggi says mandate was for development

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Democracy is singular, not plural. Only when individuals vote based on their own intelligence is there a democratic process. If not, it means that they are already pre-determined for which party, caste, or creed they are going to vote for, said Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev at a symposium at the UN headquarters in New York. “The landmark Indian general elections held earlier this year, has proved that democracy is not only compatible with, but also necessary, for holistic development. The record democratic mandate for the new government was a manifestation of the great yearning for development among Indian people, a yearning for a better quality of life,” he said.

Isha Foundation, in association with RMP (Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini)and Agewell Foundation, hosted a symposium on ‘Pluralism and Democracy: Role, Expectations and Challenges’ at the UN where the ministry of external affairs, India, and the Indian mission to the UN, were co-sponsors.

Present at the event were Mr Ashok Mukherjee, head of the Indian mission at the UN, Mr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, national vice-president, BJP, and director of RMP, Mr Rahul Sur, chief, Peacekeeping Operations in UN (moderator), and Mr Naleswar Mule, Indian consul general of New York.

The symposium looked at democracy as both the end and means of development and its role in the development agenda post-2015. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sahasrabuddhe said India and the US, the two main democratic countries of the world, have a distinct responsibility in leading a global plan of action towards promoting democracy and protecting pluralism.