



Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari

24th July 1927 – 20th December 2014

The Era of Many Splendours



"I must repeat to you again and again that I was never conscious in my life that I was a Master. Had I been conscious, I would have been useless, I would have been unworthy to be a Master. I am a disciple of my Babuji Maharaj, doing his work according to his work, according to his instructions, whether given in his lifetime or now.

... I receive messages from the Master; he says, "The time for you to join me has not yet come because you have work to do. But when you come you will be received in such a way, and then we shall go on to other worlds...". And I am – I don't know whether I should be happy or sad! There is no end. If there is an end to work, there is no life, whether in the body or out of the body."

World-Wide Live Webcast, 26 October 2014, Chennai, India



A Message from Respected Kamlesh D. Patel



It is difficult to express in words the shock that we all individually have experienced and are going through. No words of consolation can ever be enough. Our Master completed fifty years in the Mission as an abhyasi, as a preceptor, as a Master, serving every moment of his life, tirelessly.

His life exemplifies a true *Karma Yogi*. His life was full of pain and miseries, at all levels. There was never a moment of peace in his life; never a moment. For one reason or the other that peace was destroyed. All he wanted was to see harmony between all of us.

Harmony. Harmony is sadly lacking within us and amongst us. We must promise him now at least, let's not have any more differences. Differences are good, they are great, but they should not be escalated to the level of dislikes and hatred towards each other. We are brothers and sisters.

We should not look for name and fame. Sahaj Marg is all about anonymity and working quietly, but working all the time with a common goal to achieve. Babuji has been telling again and again from the Brighter World that our Mission shall be

recognised, will be known in the future, as a Mission where there is unity. It starts with us.

How grand it is to interiorise the presence of Divinity in the innermost chambers of our hearts, and that it can become only grander by exteriorising the same presence through our behaviour and actions.

We as abhyasis, we as *bhaktas*, we as lovers, we as disciples, as functionaries and volunteers, we as conduits of love and grace, we as dreamers of seeing a better world, we as privileged beneficiaries of His love and care, we have a commitment to make. It was his dream to see us all united, and growing together, with the life's mission of changing oneself radically, and in the process help the Hierarchy change the course of our future together.

Let us promise our beloved Master, let us resolve that we shall make Him happy, we'll continue with all our hearts in fulfilling His Mission. Let us offer a simple resolve to our beloved Master as a *guru dakshina*, promising him to become abhyasis, better *bhaktas*, better lovers, better disciples, better volunteers, better and better and better.



His lessons for us

In life and in the manner of his departure, Master demonstrated many lessons for us – to accept the mortality of human life, to utilise the precious time available for our spiritual evolution and to rise higher and higher through a life of service in divine remembrance. Above all, to accept all that human life brings to us in its wake, without demur and without expectations. He was the epitome of all these and therefore became our ideal and the goal.

The passing away of a great Master surely tends to create a devastating effect on his devotees and a huge void in their inner world. However, our beloved Master of three decades, Chariji Maharaj, seems to have prepared the hearts of his abhyasis to bear his physical departure. In the last two years, when his physical sufferings reached a peak and he was several times on the verge of leaving, he made a comeback and persisted with his work in obedience to his Master. On those occasions, he would say, “I went up to the door, but it would not open and I was asked to go back as my work was not yet over.” A few months back, when we were sitting on the veranda of Master’s cottage, he said, “I cannot leave just because I have appointed a successor. I can leave only when he is ready.”

Pain and sufferings – the ladder for his ascent

In the last one year, when cancer ravaged his body and drained him of physical strength, he still strove to continue with his work. Often racked with pain, fever, infections and a progressive reduction in food intake, he became bedridden. Yet he would ask to be wheeled out of his bedroom to give *darshan* to abhyasis patiently waiting for him at his gates. His sense of humour did not desert him even at this stage. When he was transferred to his wheelchair after a long confinement in bed, he told brother Kamlesh Patel, “Now I have become a chairman!”

Such is the spirit of a Master who would challenge the ageing process, infuse hope and faith in his abhyasis and strengthen them against the misfortunes of life. For him, pain was the ladder to the summit of greatness. He also said that Master’s pains drew the love of abhyasis

Looking to the Future

On the night of the 20th of December 2014, when I heard the sad news of my Master passing on after a long and painful illness, I proceeded to the ashram in Manapakkam. When I entered, I felt stillness and peace in the atmosphere. Abhyasis who had already reached were quiet and seemed to be resigned to the reality of Master’s departure from this world. In the next two days, around twenty five thousand abhyasis from all over India, as well as quite a number from overseas, rushed to our Manapakkam ashram to have a glimpse of Master’s mortal remains lying in state in the hall outside his bedroom. As abhyasis filed past in silence, with tearful eyes and simmering sorrow, the song *Gurupaduka stotram* (Adoration of the Guru’s sandals) of Adi Sankara was played as per Master’s prior instructions. The first stanza of the song runs like this:

The crossing of this endless ocean of samsara is enabled

by the boat that is sincere devotion to Guru.

Showing me the way to the valuable dominion of renunciation,

O dear Guru, I bow to thy holy sandals.

On the afternoon of the 22nd of December, our beloved Master’s remains were consigned to the flames in Besant Nagar crematorium. Thus ended the great saga of Master’s life on this earth, creating a great emptiness in our lives.



towards him. In the final days of his conscious life, I was prompted to share my anxieties about his mounting pains. I told him that, as his children, we also suffer when he suffers. Master said, “It is not true. Children suffer only occasionally, parents suffer all the time.”

Recently, during a discussion while he was bedridden, Master mentioned that a brother was a partner in a well-known company and I said, “We can only be your partners, but not in your pain.” Master replied, “That is not possible. As Babuji says in *Whispers*, ‘That is how it goes!’”

When I remarked that he had suffered more than any average human being, he said, “That is true, it started when I was a young boy.”

The sufferings of masters seem to be for a larger purpose. Babuji Maharaj says in his *Whispers* message of the 10th of December 2014 that this ‘final step’ of recent sufferings of Chariji was necessary to attain the highest stage of human evolution. I remember that Master told me around 1985 that according to the *naadi shastra* (the science of predictions recorded on palm leaves), he would attain spiritual heights never attained by man so far.

Comforting message from Master

Within twenty-four hours of his passing, on the 21st of December 2014, Master sent a message from the Brighter World saying that all his sufferings are over. Talking to some of the thousands of abhyasis who rushed to Babuji Memorial Ashram, Manapakkam, I gathered that they also felt relieved that his sufferings were finally over. While they were tearful about his departure, they had no complaint about it. This was the attitude of acceptance Master had prepared in them by his long and excruciating illness.

Master has left behind a vast body of teachings. He relentlessly and repeatedly stressed the purity of the Sahaj Marg system to be followed, character formation, love for all and cordiality,



understanding and brotherhood among abhyasis, especially the functionaries. We should accept these challenges and work on them sincerely as a token of our love for him.

One who represents Him

Master says comfortingly in the same message, “Look to the future with confidence.” Abhyasis are not an orphaned lot. Master has trained his Representative and empowered him to continue his work, to guide us through this life and usher us into the world in which the great Masters reside.

In the 1980s, I witnessed the difficulties that Master faced when he succeeded Babuji Maharaj. Master used to clarify that when we refer to Master, it should not be the name, form or attributes, but the Essence behind them. During the Basant Panchami celebration in Shahjahanpur in the year 1988, when he was beset with hostile forces as well as doubting minds, he said very clearly, “You should not look for Babuji Maharaj in his *samadhi* in the ashram, but look for the person in whom he has taken living *samadhi*.”

This is what he taught us all his life – the Master does not die. He is eternal and lives amongst us in the form of the living Master.

— A.P. Durai



Eulogy

Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari was born on the 24th of July 1927 in Vayalur near Chennai. He was the eldest of four children. He lost his mother at the tender age of five and was brought up most lovingly by his courageous father, who offered the children a holistic education spanning arts, sports and most importantly the foundations of a value-based life.

Parthasarathi braved the loss of his dear mother and grew up to be a distinctive adult. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Banaras Hindu University, learnt music, and developed an abiding passion for reading. He nurtured a deep-seated interest in the spiritual quest right from the age of five, and had acquired a solid foundation of understanding in Christianity, Hinduism, other religions, Yoga and the occult by his twenty-fifth year.

In 1955 he married Srimathi Sulochana and their son Krishna was born a couple of years later. Along with Sulochana, Krishna, daughter-in-law Priya, and two grandchildren Bhargav and Madhuri, they lived as a loving joint family in their house 'Gayathri' in Alwarpet, Chennai. Parthasarathi spent the majority of his professional life, from 1955 to 1985, with the TTK Group of companies, where he rose to the position of Executive Director.

In 1964, Parthasarathi was introduced to the Sahaj Marg system of spiritual *sadhana* and met his Guru, Shri Ram Chandraj Maharaj of Shahjahanpur (U.P.), affectionately known as Babuji.



His spiritual quest thus assumed a clear direction under the loving guidance of Babuji. In addition to pursuing his spiritual search with great zest, he developed a selfless love for Babuji and became an ideal disciple, whom Babuji described as one with an eastern heart and a western mind. Parthasarathi supported him tirelessly in offering the Sahaj Marg system of Raja Yoga to seekers. He travelled with Babuji in India and overseas and helped him manage all affairs of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, the organisation that offers Sahaj Marg.

He served as the General Secretary of the Mission from 1970 to 1982, and in 1974 was nominated by Babuji to be his spiritual successor and president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission after his own lifetime. Babuji attained *mahasamadhi* in 1983 and bequeathed his spiritual wealth to Parthasarathi. Parthasarathi thus became the third in the line of living spiritual Masters of the Sahaj Marg system. By then, the Mission had an emerging presence in India and overseas.

Since 1983, for the last thirty-one years, Chariji has been furthering his Gururji's cause in guiding spiritual seekers and building the Mission. Thanks to his efforts, today there are around two hundred thousand people practising Sahaj Marg across one hundred and ten countries. His magnetic and magnificent personality, charismatic simplicity, wide knowledge, genuineness, care and total humaneness have





drawn seekers from all over the world to his feet. His mastery of various fields found expression through his spiritual life. Therefore aspirants from different walks of life were naturally attracted to him. In a very real way, he has recreated the *Upanishadic* times in the modern world. His phenomenal spiritual contribution through unceasing selfless service, single-minded focus, dedication to his Guru, and inexhaustible capacity to work is probably unparalleled in the history of the ages. Through his unfathomable love, universal in its scope and yet so personalised in its manifestation, he has rendered meaning to countless seekers whom he has carefully guided to a higher life. His existence, perfect and balanced in every way, will serve as an inspiration to humanity for all time.

With his passing on the 20th of December 2014, after fifty years in the Mission, we come to the end of an era. As he has himself repeatedly emphasised, however, the relationship between a *guru* and a *sisya* is an eternal one, that never dulls with time nor punctuates with the mortality of this life. With faith in this eternal connection with him, we tearfully bid him adieu from this world.

His enduring legacy includes a large global egrore of spiritual seekers united by his love into a brotherhood, the organisations known as Shri Ram Chandra Mission and Sahaj Marg Spirituality Foundation, over one hundred and twenty ashrams and retreat centres that serve as centres of light, a well-functioning school that affords high quality education in a spiritually charged atmosphere, a body of teaching that builds on Babuji's teaching, his exalted life that will serve as a permanent example for humanity, and most importantly his spiritual successor Shri Kamlesh D. Patel who continues to transmit his undying love. He once said that in Sahaj Marg one receives love, becomes love and has the possibility of leaving love behind after leaving this life.

He is survived by his family – his son Krishna, daughter-in-law Priya, grandson Bhargav and granddaughter Madhuri – and by his spiritual successor Shri Kamlesh D. Patel.

We prostrate at his Holy Feet with love, gratitude and adoration, and pray that his inspiration and inner presence continue to be a torch that guides us back to him in his divine abode.

Om Shanti Shanti Shanti





At Manapakkam...

As news of our beloved Master's *mahasamadhi* spread across centres around the world, abhyasis got over their initial shock and made a beeline to Manapakkam to pay their last respects to the one who has been the focal point of their existence.

Thousands of abhyasis streamed in and quietly joined the queue winding through the ashram towards the cottage. They came to have a last glimpse of the physical form of their beloved Master, who was their father, grandfather, brother, friend and above all a guru to each craving heart that knocked at the door of His heart. Dedicated volunteers served water and fruits to everyone, taking care of all the visitors to the ashram with utmost love and care.

As abhyasis entered Master's cottage, their eyes teared up, hearts welled with sorrow to see the majestic form of beloved Master, who used to greet us with his voice full of affection, resting in silence, surrounded by all his loved ones, in tears. The thought that we shall no more be able to see the charismatic and affectionate persona of our beloved Master, who welcomed everyone with his open arms, helped us at multiple levels, pampered us, showered His Grace on us and filled our hearts with joy, was heart wrenching.

The atmosphere in the ashram was very calm and serene and Nature too was applying balm to soothe and comfort the grieving hearts by her cool showers. At 5 p.m., Kamlesh Bhai gave a sitting at the meditation hall which brought a lot of peace and tranquility to the aggrieved hearts.

The next morning after satsang, a message from Master from the Brighter World, was read out in the meditation hall. All could feel Master's eternal presence, free from his physical sufferings, infusing Divine Grace to remove all the sorrow and fill our hearts with peace, strength, love, gratitude and the determination to follow his teachings and reach our spiritual goal and unite with the Divine Master.



The Working Committee of SRCM had two meetings on the evening of 22nd December to acknowledge the spiritual successor and president of the Mission, Kamlesh D. Patel.

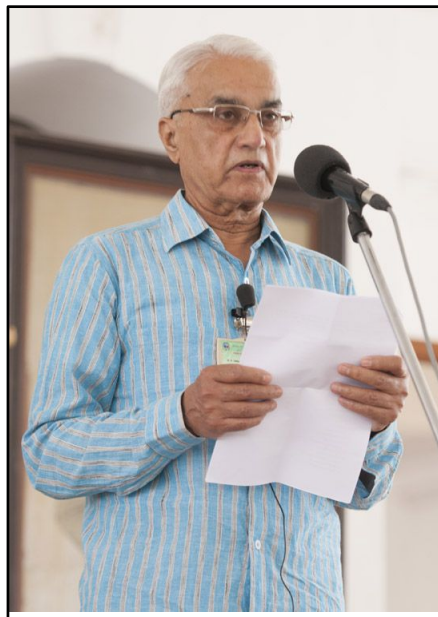
On the morning of 23rd December, brother U.S. Bajpai, secretary of the Mission, read out the resolutions passed by the Working Committee. After this Kamlesh Bhai spoke to all asking us to come together and work in

harmony for the good of the Mission.

The messages from the Brighter World have comforted the sorrowing hearts and given a sense of relief to us knowing that 'All is well'.

Master lives in our hearts. Master lives in his writings which reveal the pinnacle of his own perfection. Master lives through his recorded talks and videos that are the outpourings of his soul. Master lives in the homes of his abhyasis who serve his Mission and his abhyasis. Master lives in all the ashrams that he built for us and charged for years to come, for the hearts that yearn for spirituality.

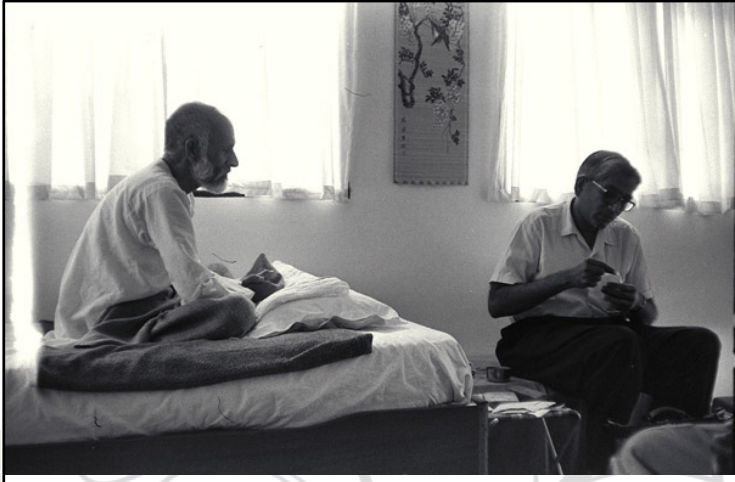
We have nothing to despair as our beloved Master has assured us well in advance that he has



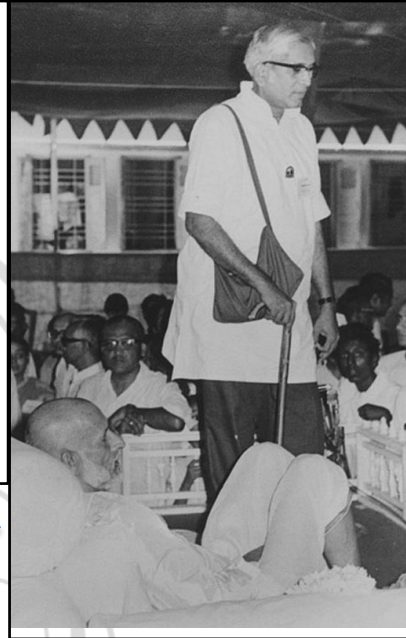
taken full care of all the requirements of all the spiritual seekers across the globe and handed our Mission and his abhyasis to the one upon whom has been bestowed all the necessary capabilities by our Great Masters – Kamlesh Bhai. All we have to do now is to follow his words and co-operate with his work for attaining our own spiritual goal.



A photo journey through our Master's fifty years in the Mission ...



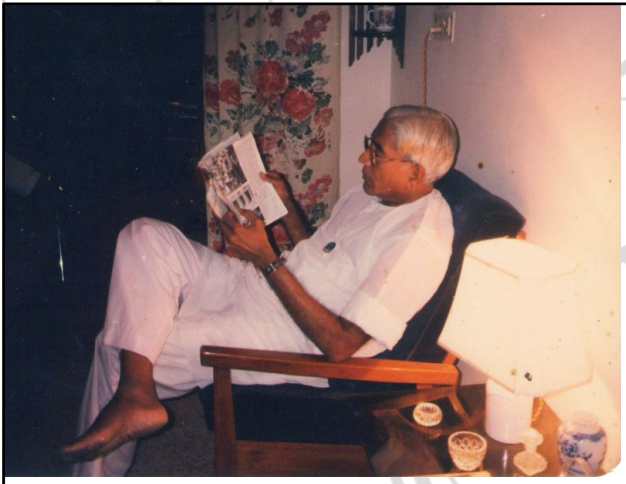
1972 - Rome



1973 - Chennai ▶



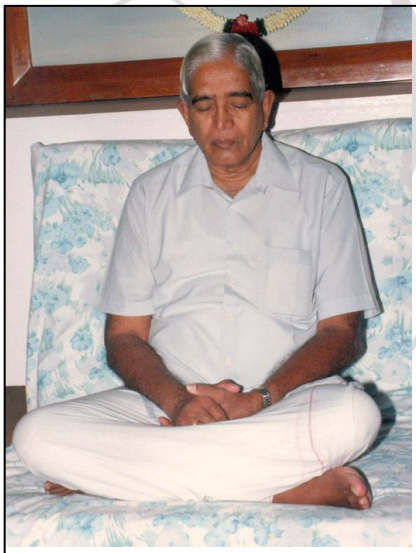
1984 - Chennai ▶



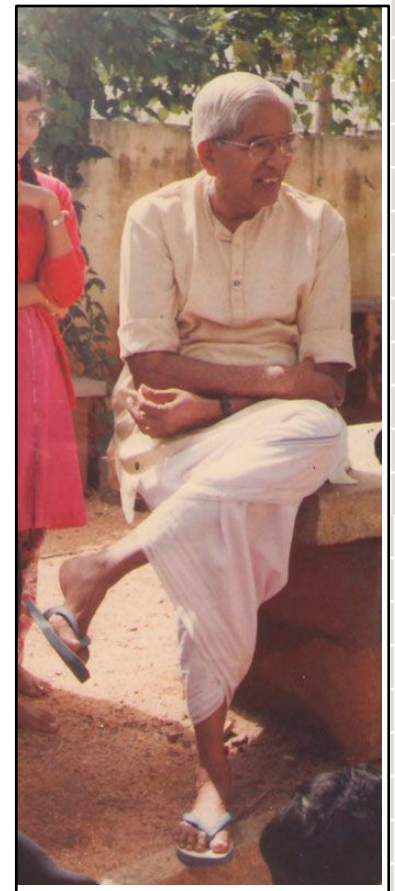
1988 – New Delhi



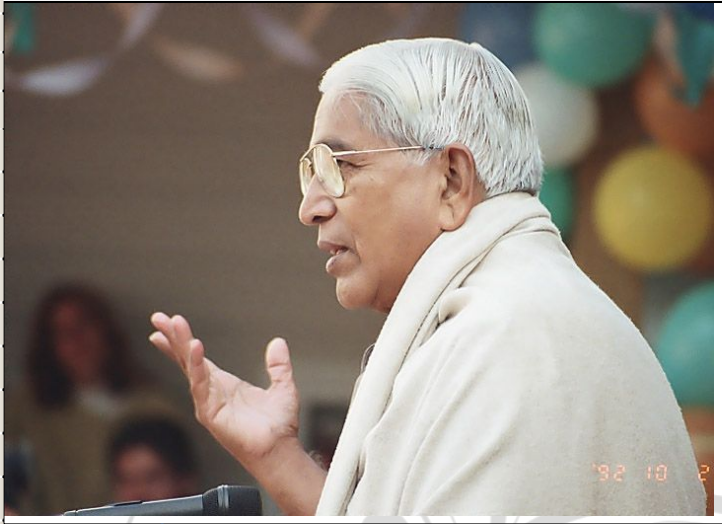
1990 – Manapakkam, Chennai



1989 – Bangalore



1991 – Bangalore



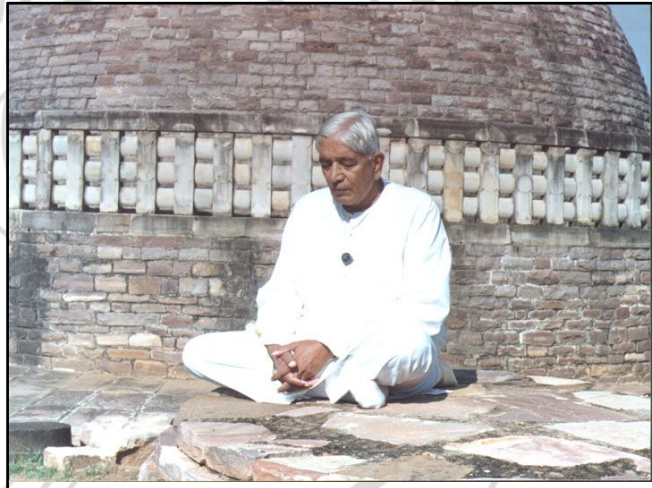
1992 – Molena, USA



1996 - Hyderabad



2000 - Singapore



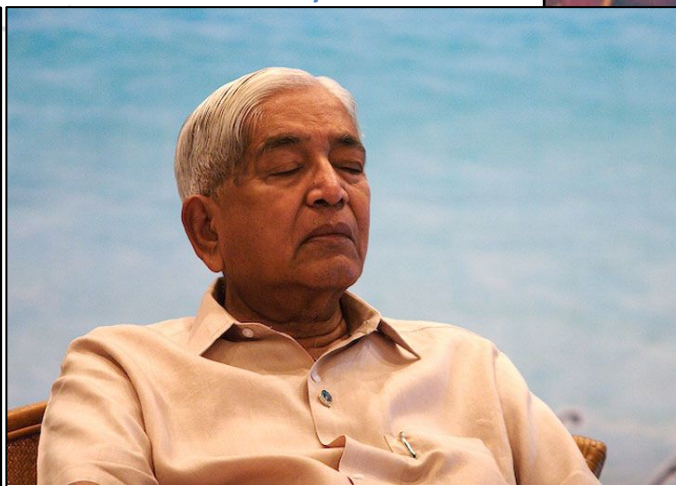
1997 - Sanchi

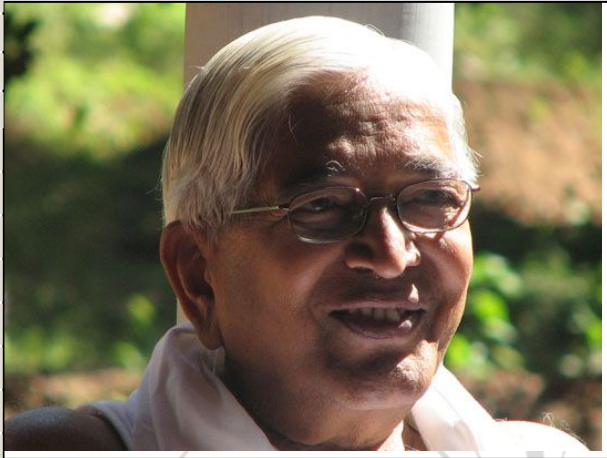
2004 - Chandigarh



2003 - Switzerland

2006 - Malaysia





2007 – CREST, Bangalore



2008 – Naukuchiatal



2009 – Chennai



2010 – Chandigarh



2011 – Rudrapur ▶



2013 – 15th August - Chennai



2014 – Chennai