

ESPAÑOL

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Amidst its differences, humanity very often finds itself working as one. Examples of cooperation, generosity and selflessness touch the heart, and the differences fade. In its pages One World One Humanity brings highlights of the association between Shri Ram Chandra Mission and UN DPI in communicating that ideal of oneness.

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One World One Humanity



Photo: Tiruppur centre

24 JULY 2007: Close to sixty-thousand people of all nations, faiths, and traditions, assembled in Tiruppur, India on the occasion of the 80th birth anniversary of Revered Master, Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, the spiritual guide of Sahaj Marg. Master acts as a guide to the aspirant in much the same way as an accomplished mountaineer is a guide to the inexperienced climber. He knows the terrain of the journey first-hand and is able to lead the seeker safely, surely and expeditiously to the goal. There is only one objective behind Master's relationship with aspirants, and that is their spiritual welfare. He rekindles their idealism, and inspires them to hold themselves up to the highest ideals in all their endeavours.

A spiritual approach invites individuals to look within their hearts, discover the sanctity of life and experience in the heart a oneness with all things created. The essence of a spiritual approach is love, and its field of action is the heart. When individuals from different backgrounds come together in assemblies as seen above, those are occasions for unnoticed, unpublished, unheralded transformation within their hearts, which they express by integrating trust and brotherhood into their lives. >>>

The Spiritual Heart



Revered Master, Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, President and Spiritual Head, Shri Ram Chandra Mission



Painting in a glass panel of Revered Babuji Maharaj at Babuji Memorial Ashram, Chennai

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Says Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, "Love, as a typical human value, as a distinctive human emotion, is not something that we use; it is something without which we cannot exist. Now, all that we do in spirituality is to widen the scope of that love. The capacity for love exists. It is directed at one or two persons. Spirituality says that, like everything else, it is not for you and your wife or for your daughters and sons alone. Enlarge it, widen it, make it universal. And all this talk of goals and God Realisation is nothing else but learning to become love yourself." In SAHAJ MARG (Natural Path) practice, our attention is focused on the divine light within the heart, uncovering our innate capacity for expanded awareness and inner repose. Individuals experience the gradual disappearance of mental chatter, and become receptive to the guiding influence of the inner self. With continued practice, they learn to return to this internal place in the midst of life's activities. A moral guidance appears

God has been of perennial interest to humanity. He has been the subject of deep thought, discussion and description in human history. Many a Master in the human annals had experienced HIM and taught the succeeding generations the methods of reaching HIM. These spiritual practices have later crystallized into religions. Amidst a welter of religions the Quest for the Spirit has survived and is continuing. It is unique. SAHAJ MARG is this unique Quest for the Spirit and incorporates in itself the quintessence of the ageless wisdom of humanity.

naturally from this inner connectedness. The subtle beauty of this experience has immense power to transform and heal not only individuals but also the rifts that divide them from each other.

IN SAHAJ MARG PRACTICE THERE IS this principle of inner cleaning, that

“We must learn how to create within the heart a feeling of universal love, which is surest remedy of all evils and can help to free us from the horrors of war.”

—Revered Babuji Maharaj

through the application of the will power, the root causes of behavioural patterns that condition our responses, expectations and fears gently and naturally drop off. The practice of cleaning assists us in uncovering the natural self and allows us to make way for lasting change within us that we wish to see outside. Sahaj Marg places guidance within the heart and we mould

our outward existence to reflect the inner truth and principles that guide us — which means blending of our material and spiritual lives. It is relevant here to mention Dag Hammarskjold, the UN's second Secretary General: "The explanation of how a man should live a life of active social service in full harmony with himself as a member of the community of the spirit, I found in the writings of those great medieval mystics for whom 'self surrender' had been the way to self realization, and who, in 'singleness of mind' and 'inwardness' had found the strength to say 'yes' to every demand, which the needs of their neighbours made them face, and to say 'yes' also, to every fate that life had in store for them, when they followed the call of duty, as they understood it. 'Love' that much misused and misinterpreted word, for them, meant simply an overflowing of strength with which they felt themselves filled when living in true self-oblivion. And this love found natural expressions in an unhesitant fulfillment of duty and in an unreserved acceptance of life, whatever it brought them personally of toil and suffering or of happiness. I know their discoveries about the laws of inner life and of action have not lost their significance." ‡

Sahaj Marg Around the World



Mr Abdullah Mbamba, Director, UN Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific giving the keynote address at SRCM regional seminar in Sydney commemorating United Nations Day, 2007.

Photos: Oceania centre

SYDNEY: FOUR SPEAKERS SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES on the theme “One World, One Humanity- Steps and Obstacles Towards Unification of Humanity” at the United Nations’ 62nd anniversary celebrations organized by Shri Ram Chandra Mission on 19,20,21 October 2007 in Sydney. Mr Abdullah Mbamba, senior UN official in Australia, delivered the keynote address on the UN’s role in unifying humanity; Fr Patrick McInerney of the Columban Institute, Sydney, spoke on the human and spiritual resources utilized in reconciliation and in restoring tolerance; Mr Mohammad Dukuly of the Together for Humanity Foundation spoke of youth education; and

“There is no doubt in my mind that the theme for this event reaffirms the values enshrined in the UN Charter and indeed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But more significantly, is that your Organization has taken concrete steps to advance these values here in Australia.”

– Mr Abdullah Mbamba, Director, UN Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific at SRCM regional seminar in Sydney on the occasion of the UN’s 62nd anniversary.

U.N. Day Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia

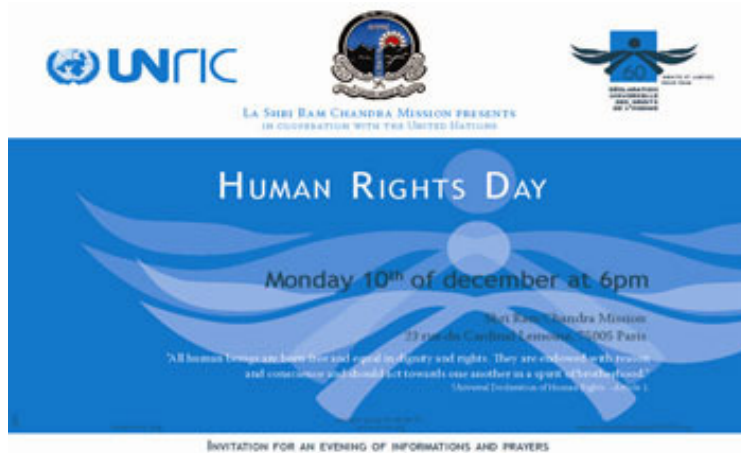
“One World, One Humanity: Steps and Obstacles Towards Unification of Humanity”

Mr John Smith of SRCM spoke of meeting his spiritual guide, Revered Master, Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, and how he was witness to his Master’s teachings nurturing love and brotherhood. Mr Mbamba said, “We must stress the importance of deep spirituality as a source of compassion, love, healing and reconciliation”. He said that everyone must become “instruments of peace” adding that religious leaders, media, private sector and non governmental organizations faced a “common challenge to eliminate all distorted notions that deepen barriers and widen divides”. Fr Inerney said that conditioning generated by social forces and ignorance could create stereotypes, prejudices, and further division amongst religious believers. Each tradition had a minority of extremists, he noted, but “we should not prejudice the entire community on the basis of the exception”. Mr Dukuly from the Together for Humanity Foundation, Sydney illustrated how the programmes he undertook with students detected stereotypes and assisted students in becoming tolerant. John Smith of SRCM spoke of the transformative effect of Sahaj Marg and the message of love of his Master. A children’s poster and poem competition was also organized with prize winning responses from schools in Fiji. ‡ (With Danielle Smith)



60 Years of the human rights Declaration

Sahaj Marg Around the World



“

Promote the feeling of mutual love and universal brotherhood irrespective of caste, creed, colour, etc.”

– Constitution of

Shri Ram Chandra Mission

Paris Ashram Hosts Human Rights Observance with UN Regional Information Centre

PARIS: SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION AND the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels (UNRIC), jointly organized the 10 December human rights Day commemoration at the Paris Ashram 23, rue du Cardinal Lemoine. Elsewhere, in Europe, in the Mission’s meditation centres in Montpellier, Nice, Lyon, Marseille, Toulon, Lausanne, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Galway, London and in Toronto, Canada, and Cleveland, United States cultural events, discussion and prayer /meditation was organized. At the Paris event, guest and Mission speakers spoke on the enduring relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Documentaries on Martin Luther King Jr and Mahatma Gandhi were also shown. A special session consisted of reading the abridged edition of the UDHR, Revered Babuji Maharaj’s letter to the UN and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message. The

evening concluded with all attendees meditating on the significance of human rights Day.

Peace and Tolerance Days, USA ON SEPTEMBER 21, THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, Austin centre co-hosted a prayer meditation workshop at the University of Texas. General public and university community participating. The UN considers Peace Day “a unique opportunity” for its “related importance of achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance...among the global community”.

ON NOVEMBER 16, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE, following on the success of the Peace Day events, Austin centre and University of Texas Natural Path Meditation, co-hosted a workshop. General public, university community and neighbours were invited to participate. Prior to the event, Austin centre representatives spoke on the theme of Meditation for Human Integration at the University Inter-Faith Council and were invited to the 5th annual interfaith fast-breaking dinner of the Institute of Interfaith Dialog attended by notables of all religious backgrounds. ‡



Paris Ashram: Human Rights Day observance with UN Regional Information Centre, joined by brothers and sisters in Montpellier, Nice, Lyon, Marseille, Toulon, Lausanne, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Galway, London, Toronto and Cleveland. Photo: France centre

Lalaji Memorial Omega International School, India

www.omegaschools.org



Omega School to Participate in UN Student Conference on Human Rights

CHENNAI: STUDENTS OF LALAJI MEMORIAL Omega International School will participate in the 11th Annual United Nations Student Conference on Human Rights. Omega is one of the nine schools selected worldwide for this annual videoconference, which will attempt to examine the impact of climate change on people's lives. The event, webcast live, will unite >>>

>>> high school youth assembled at UN headquarters in New York and at nine videoconference sites in the Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia for collaboration and action to advance human rights. Prior to the conference, students will conduct their own research and share ideas across cultures through a UN web-based forum. In addition, participants will be able to interact through live video chats during the months leading up to the conference. During the conference, student representatives in New York will work with students from other countries participating by videoconferencing and web-

casting to develop a consensus on a Plan of Action on the subject of climate change. The student Plan of Action will be presented to the President of the UN General Assembly and, as in past years, request its dissemination to the 192 member states.

BACKGROUND: In December 1998, the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI) invited students world over to a conference in New York to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The goal was to produce the Youth Declaration of Human Rights. This programme was so successful that students lobbied to

make the conference an annual event that would be scheduled on or near to Human Rights Day (December 10th). UN DPI agreed to host the conference. Ten such annual conferences have taken place since 1998. While the conference theme changes each year, the goals remain the same: to promote awareness and prompt action among students about human rights in general, as well as the specific rights related to that year's conference theme. The annual event offers students the opportunity to develop leadership skills such as public speaking, team and consensus building, negotiating, research and drafting. ‡

THE NINE GEMS OF LIFE

The driving force at Omega school, its teachers proudly say, is the Value Based Spiritual Education (VBSE) that aims to impart the message of a balanced life, one equally progressive and luminous in inner and outer existence. Building on **UNESCO's Core Values**, Omega has adopted the *Nava Ratnas* (nine gems) of life: **Truth & Wisdom; Love & Compassion; Sensitivity & Creativity; Spirituality; Peace & Justice; Self Awareness/ Self-Management; Environmental morality; Citizenship; Health and Nutrition.** Each class has a weekly time dedicated to VBSE. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the *Nava Ratnas* in the main curriculum as well as embody them in interactions with the students. The students' day begins with morning assembly and ends with Circle Time with their class teacher who facilitates ideas for children to practice the *Nava Ratnas* in their lives. ‡



Omega is located in Chennai and offers Cambridge University's International Examinations and Indian Central Board of Secondary Education certifications. Photos: Omega

Sahaj Marg Around the World

2008 Events

5 JUNE, WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:
“BE PLAIN AND SIMPLE TO BE IDENTICAL WITH NATURE.”
 W.E.D. information presentation and prayer meditation in two dozen cities in Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Europe and the United States that explores the inclusive spiritual approach towards a low carbon economy. The UN and civil society have joined forces to mobilize people to act and lessen the impact of climate change, explore all paths that lead to significant shift in attitude and behaviour towards the environment and generate environmental consciousness to prevent further damage. SRCM will dedicate the Environment Day programme to the maxim followed by more than 200,000 of its members worldwide: “Be plain and simple to be identical with Nature”. The idea behind the informational and meditation session is to underscore the efficacy of thought, intention and prayer to fuel a compassionate change of heart and mind towards all life forms.

12 AUGUST, INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY:
ALL INDIA ESSAY WRITING CONTESTS aimed to encourage the research on youth in India, assess and evaluate their strengths and contributions to society and propose applicable ideas to empower them to participate in and shape the decisions that affect their lives.

10 DECEMBER, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: SIXTY YEARS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION Workshops in Europe, Oceania, United States will focus on the enduring relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that turns 60 in 2008.

23 JULY, UNIC NEW DELHI OFFICIAL TO ADDRESS SRCM audience in Lucknow on the Millennium Development Goals.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT U.N. RELATED OBSERVANCES, PROGRAMMES, WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY THE SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION VISIT THE “ONE WORLD” WEB PAGES AT:
<http://www.srcm.org/un/index.jsp>

WEB ARCHIVES

Volume 1 Issue 1

English, Español, Français



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 “A ROOM OF QUIET”
 A REMEDY FOR WAR
 SMALL STEPS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

UNLEARNING INTOLERANCE

Watch webcast of “Art Changing Attitudes Toward the Environment”
<http://www.un.org/webcast>

(ADAPTED FROM WWW.UN.ORG/CHRONICLE)

UN DPI’s Unlearning Intolerance Seminar in 2008 centered on the intolerance of the needs of our Earth and the attitudinal and behavioural changes that must be made in order to protect it. In the current era in which scare tactics are frequently used to generate social action, the seminar explores an alternative approach to inspire the public to take responsibility for our collective future. Artistic expression inspired by our natural environments is a strong alternative approach in efforts to strengthen community engagement in conservation and preservation. ‡





CIRCA 1994: RESPECT for Nature at all levels continues to be of the highest concern to Master (standing, left). When the Meditation Hall at the Babuji Memorial Ashram was under construction, he instructed that the palm trees that existed on the plot were to be kept, and that the building was to be built around the trees — not otherwise. In the picture above, the issue is how to transplant an adult tree without injuring it in any way and, below, the Meditation Hall complex as can be seen today. On 5 June 2008, SRCM will commemorate World Environment Day internationally dedicated to the theme, "BE PLAIN AND SIMPLE TO BE IDENTICAL WITH NATURE", which offers the positive and inclusive spiritual approach towards a low carbon economy. Photos: SRCM

