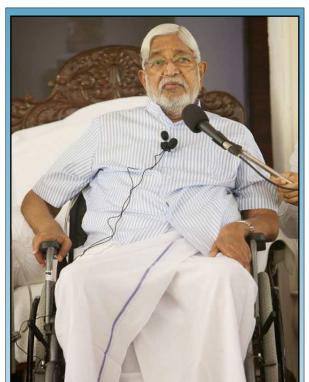
## SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION®





# "Your response, your overwhelming response, indicates to me that what my dear Babuji Maharaj writes again and again in Whispers is true: that hearts are beginning to open to Reality, that people want the spiritual life more and more, are willing to commit themselves more and more, and give themselves to it more and more, which is a very good sign."

15th August 2012 Manapakkam, Chennai



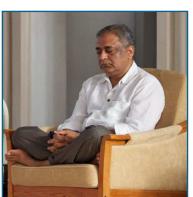
# Historic Special One Day Bhandara

#### August 15, 2012 in Manapakkam, Chennai

On the 11th August 2012, Master asked Br. Kamlesh Patel to summon an extraordinary meeting of the Working Committee of the Mission on 15th August at Babuji Memorial Ashram, Manpakkam, Chennai. The next evening, Master called the Manapakkam ashram manager and informed him of his decision to have a special one day bhandara in Manapakkam ashram on the same day. He dictated a letter to be sent out to all abhyasis via Sahaj Sandesh, inviting them for the bandhara. It was to be an extraordinary General Body meeting of abhyasis. Three satsanghs were planned for at 6:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Master had undergone a trying period of treatment from the 5th of July for infections of the urinary tract and intestines and had suffered untold pain uncomplainingly as usual and it was an anxious time for abhyasis of the Mission as well. Deprived of normal food intake, he had lost weight and had become immobile in bed for the longest period in his life. His call for a bhandara therefore, surprised abhyasis the world over, but the call from his heart brought twenty-one thousand abhyasis within two days, to Manapakkam!





Just a day earlier on 11th August, Master underwent a PET/CT scan which was clear and there was no localized infection anywhere. This was good news and all the doctors were happy with the outcome. Master jokingly said, "Now that the scan has said that I have no problems, why are these doctors giving me medicines?" and everyone in the room had a hearty laugh.

As soon as the circular regarding the bhandara was sent out, preparations started in full-swing as there were only three days left. The reliable Mr. Francis of Bangalore was summoned with his materials and team as he is quite experienced in putting up the infrastructure for our bandharas in Tiruppur. Volunteers from Tiruppur also rose to the challenge and were busy in the following days in providing facilities for ten to fifteen thousand abhyasis who were expected. The whole ashram was covered with tents and shamianas. Any flat and open area in the ashram was covered with tents for meditation or shelter. About 25,000 sq. ft. of area consisting of four tents was put up on both sides of the meditation hall and another 30,000 sq.ft. of shamianas were also put up for shelter.

Accommodation was a big challenge. Almost all abhyasis who lived near the ashram had made their houses available for visiting abhyasis to stay. A real brotherhood was felt in this process of sharing and living together. In addition to the ashram and abhyasi homes, the Omega school also accommodated about 1500 abhyasis and a well equipped kalyana mandapam at a nearby church accommodated about 900 abhyasis more. Overall, the whole accommodation requirements were handled in a very smooth manner.

As it was Master's wish that the ashram must be decorated for the occasion, lighting and decoration were afoot on the night of 14th August in the meditation hall, Master's cottage, Babuji mantap, Ruchi Café, the ashram entrance and almost all parts of the ashram had been decorated with flowers, lights and other decorations. Word reached Master about the decorations and that the ashram was looking bright, clean and was over-flowing with abhyasis. To everyone's surprise, Master decided to get into the wheelchair to go for a round. He initially told the doctors just to take him out to the verandah of the cottage. When he saw the lights and decorations in the Babuji's mantap, he asked to be taken there. As he was coming back, Master lifted his hand and indicated towards the cottage main gate. From there, he proceeded to the meditation hall, just to see the decorations there. Master entered the















meditation hall via the newly created ramp and went on the stage to see the meditation hall. It was about 8 p.m. and all the abhyasis working there were taken by surprise to see Master there. The meditation hall was adorned with drapery all around hung from the ceiling level to the top of the pillars in the Roman style with flower decorations. Master came back to the cottage and one could see a glow in his face on the way back.

Abhyasis kept coming in to the ashram in large numbers. There were abhyasis everywhere; there was no place empty; hardly anyone slept the whole night. However, one thing that could be observed was that even in this packed situation, there was no commotion or chaos and orderliness and calmness was maintained. There were helping hands to be seen everywhere. The morning 6:30 a.m. satsangh was conducted by Br. Kamlesh Patel lasting for an hour. When the satsangh got over and abhyasis started coming out of the meditation hall, the view from meditation hall was a sight to see. Calmness and self discipline prevailed and not one abhyasi tried to break the rhythm, and none tried to go into the cottage to see Master.

It was announced that Master planned to come by 9:30 a.m. to the meditation hall and all abhyasis were requested to re-assemble for the same. This was indeed the most awaited event of the day. Around 10.30 a.m., Master arrived in a wheelchair

equipped with an oxygen cylinder to assist his breathing. The recent illness seemed to have taken a very strong toll on his physical being and he seemed to have considerably weakened and every word or movement was a strain on his physical system. Most abhyasis present were seeing him after a long spell of anxiety about his health and were visibly happy to see him before them. Master spoke about his current illness and how it had affected him. He said that he would like to resign from the post of President of the Mission and appoint Br. Kamlesh Patel in his place. He asked the working committee members if they would agree to this, but they suggested a different alternative that Master should continue to be the President and may make Br. Kamlesh Patel the Vice President. Master asked for the opinion of the assembly who expressed their support by applause allround. Master said that the Vice President shall exercise the powers, duties and responsibilities of the President under Master's direct guidance and supervision. After this, Master conducted a short sitting which lasted for about 15 minutes and then he went back to the cottage. The evening satsangh was conducted by Br. Kamlesh Patel, and before the satsangh, the Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Mission clarified the morning's events and the resolution passed by the working committee









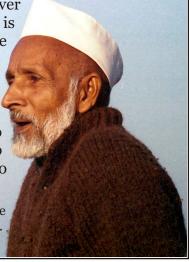


recording the appointment of Br.Kamlesh Patel as Vice President of the Mission was read out to the assembly. After satsangh, Br. Kamlesh Patel gave a talk and made two important points: first that one does not need any position or title to do Mission work or to serve the Mission, and the other was about how "Unity and Harmony" was the need of the hour, and this had to be maintained among brothers and sisters at all times, under all costs and circumstances. Br. Kamlesh also shared with abhyasis how happy Master was when he was told that twenty-one thousand people attended the bhandara. Master had exclaimed, "Just on two days notice, so many have come... they are **my** people!"

After the evening satsangh was over, abhyasis started to disperse and managing the traffic on the main road outside the ashram was a huge challenge. The prevailing mood among the faithful devotees was one of relief since Master had dropped his original intention of resignation and had graciously agreed to continue at the helm of affairs. At the same time he was taking an important step to lighten the heavy administrative burden by shifting much of it to the younger shoulders of his nominated successor.

Remembrance brings a lover close to the beloved. There is no limit to this closeness. The greater the love or affinity, the more does one advance towards Him. This relationship comes to us by inheritance. Now it is up to us to develop it as far as to secure utmost nearness to Him.

Taken from the book "Complete Works of Ram Chandra, Vol. 1", Pg. 207, by Babuji Maharaj



# Master's Report

## **Thursday, June 21, 2012**

Master was in Gayatri and decided to have his birthday celebrations at Tiruppur. This was very happy news indeed. Master had received two messages from Babuji in July 2011 emphasizing the importance of getting together during such celebrations and that this should happen year after vear. When Master read these messages, he decided that the celebrations could take place and that it could be in Tiruppur. His only concern was that abhyasis would have to spend their hard-earned money in traveling for the celebration. He indicated that there should not be any suggested donation for the celebration and it should be completely voluntary.

#### Friday, June 22, 2012

Master came to ashram and went to Dorm A to meet with a large number of abhyasis from Visakhapatnam and other centers of Andhra Pradesh. It was a very large crowd and the dorm was full. There was a lot of pressure from everyone to meet Master. Master gave a sitting and then gave a speech. He mainly addressed the issue about "Mooda Bhakti" (Blind Faith) and that this is a real problem and one must not fall into this trap. Instead, one should do the practice as prescribed and see the benefits of Sahaj Marg and the older ways of worship and customs should be dropped for real progress to be made. Master patiently made his way back through the large number of people and went back to his cottage.

Master had arranged for a wheel chair to be purchased in the afternoon as a gift for an elderly sister and in the evening, he went to their place in the ashram and gifted it to her. It was a nice moment as





not feeling well. Following this, he was ill with some viral infection for more than a week.

## 25 - 29 June, 2012

For most part of the week, Master had not been keeping well. He was resting a lot and was not meeting with any abhyasis.

On Friday evening after dinner, Master was sitting alone and listening to 'Mharo Pranam' sung by Shobha Gurtu. Master was very captivated by the song. He listened very intently and it was a great experience for everyone present, sitting in silence and listening to that song.

## Sunday, July 1, 2012

Master got ready early to go and conduct the morning satsangh. After satsangh, Master had his breakfast and had a long discussion with Br. Aditya and his mother Sis. Sujatha. Aditya is Master's brother's grandson. They had come to India to attend a wedding in the family and had come to meet Master. Master was seen giving particular attention to Aditya.

Master was talking about the morning satsangh. One abhyasi said it was 1hr and 5 minutes and Master corrected saying, it was 1hr 7 minutes to be precise. Master said it was an extra-ordinary sitting. He felt as if he was being sucked into a black hole somewhere in a different galaxy.

After the discussion, Master met with abhyasis from Hosur and distributed their land papers for the residential colony. There were around sixty abhyasis and it was quite tiring for Master. He went to rest after this and woke up only at around 7:00 p.m. As soon as he got ready, he met with a large group of abhyasis from Kolkata who had just arrived. The meeting was in his bedroom and it was in complete silence. Nobody spoke and one could feel Master's

one could see Master's concern and love towards an old lady whom he knows very well. After that, Master continued on his golf cart and met with a lot of abhyasis. He stopped outside the canteen and some snacks were brought from the canteen which he had and also distributed to all around him. Master then came back to the cottage and went to work.

#### Saturday, June 23, 2012

About 15 20 abhyasis from Tiruppur were present in the morning and Master was talking with a couple of them in the bedroom. Master then met with all of them and told that he will again meet with them after breakfast and then distributed prasad to everyone present. After breakfast, Master came out to the hall and all the abhyasis sat around him. Master said, "Ask me questions." He said this more than once, making sure that all questions and doubts related to the upcoming celebrations were clarified.

An abhyasi told Master, "When work comes, I get excited and lose my cool". Master responded saying, whenever you have to take any decision, you need to step back, take a few deep breaths, or look up in the sky and then decide. You need to learn to pause, and he showed how to do it by himself taking the deep breaths and looking up. He then said, "Work can be very enticing and we should be cautious".

## Sunday, June 24, 2012

Master asked Br. Kamlesh to sit next to him during the morning satsangh which lasted for about an hour and at the end of the satsangh, Br. Kamlesh was

SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION®

#### **ECHOES INDIA NEWSLETTER**



love for all in that silent communion.

Master saw a presentation of some ashram related construction on TV, then had dinner in the office room itself, and then watched the dance Arangetram of an abhyasi on TV via live streaming.

Tuesday July 3 was Guru Purnima. As early as 6 a.m. there were a lot of people in the cottage who had come to seek Master's blessings on this auspicious day. Master patiently met everyone and blessed them. He said, "When I went to my Master, I did not know anything about Guru Purnima. I was forty years old and Babuji said, may you grow forty times faster. I bless you all in a similar way."

After the morning satsangh which lasted for an hour, Master solemnized nine weddings and then listened to a couple of bhajans and went back to his room. There was a lot of pressure today and everyone wanted to meet Master. But, as Master was tired, he went to rest.

## **Sunday, July 8, 2012**

Master has been sick off and on for most part of this week. He went to Gayathri on the 9th and planned to be back in the ashram by the weekend.

Master was in a very good mood at Gayathri but his health was swinging between good to bad almost on

a daily basis. It is very sad to see such sudden changes in his health. The previous night, he had not been feeling well and had retired to bed early. In the morning he was in such a happy mood it was unbelievable. He sent out a message to the celebration committee in Tiruppur relating to the progress of the work there. Master said, "There is no surprise at this rapid progress of work. When it is done with love, all nature cooperates. I am always reminded of a mother who carries her child for nine months bearing all the agony of physical suffering, supported by her golden hopes for the future of her yet unborn child, supported solely by her love for one who is yet in the future. I pray that such a love may come to bless all of our abhyasis." Master then elaborated on this idea of the mother and what he called as the "Tree of Life". He took the effort to draw out a tree and indicate this message pictorially also.

Master came back to the ashram on Saturday July 14 and his health was not alright. He fell really sick on the 15th and had to cancel his plans of going to Tiruppur for his birthday celebrations.

Master had plans of inaugurating the new media room on 16th July but as he was unwell, Br. Kamlesh inaugurated it. The media room has been built with the latest technology and includes several cubicle spaces, IT server area and a 100% sound proof room where audio recordings can be done.

Master's illness continued for almost three weeks but he is now on the path of slow recovery. The ashram had been closed for visitors until the end of July. Several abhyasis who had planned to visit Manapakkam after the Tiruppur celebrations were asked to make alternative arrangements. Periodic reports by the doctors attending on Master kept all abhyasis informed of Master's health and the slow recovery that he is making. We request all our brothers and sisters to continue to pray for our beloved Master's speedy recovery and for his good health and long life.







Twenty books and eight audio-video products were

released on the auspicious occasion of Master's 86th birthday celebrations at Tiruppur. A set of special photographs have been brought out on glass, canvas and etching on silvery ply. The bookings for this remain open and are available on a pre-order basis. Interested

abhyasis may contact july24.photos@gmail.com. Several hundred photographs were also available in the photo

#### **ECHOES INDIA NEWSLETTER**



## **New Publications**

#### **Audio-Video Releases**

**Whispers** French MP3



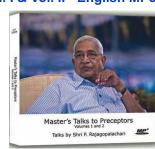
He. Hookah & I **English - DVD** 



Sahaj Marg Meanderings **English DVD** 



Master's Talks to Preceptors -Vol. I & Vol. II - English MP3



Master's Talks in Chennai and Coimbatore - Tamil DVD



The Eternal Power of Love -Vol. I - English DVD



**Master's Choice Vol 4** MP3

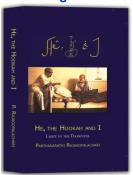


Inner Reflections Vol. II **English MP3** 



#### **New Books**

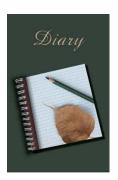
He, the Hookah and I **English** 



**Commentary on Ten Maxims of Sahaj Marg** 



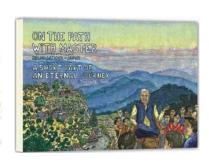
**Abhyasi Diary** 



**Prefect Directory** 



**Comic book - Timothee** 

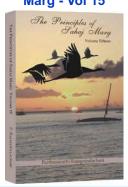


Messages Universal II



**Tamil** Teluau Marathi Gujarati Kannada Malayalam

The Principles of Sahaj Marg - Vol 15



The Pursuit of the **Inner Way** 



# Master's 86th Birthday Celebrations

Rajasthan

**Assam** - The abhyasis of **Dibrugarh** celebrated the occasion with much enthusiasm. A child played 'Happy Birthday' and a sister sang bhajans. The session ended with breakfast and prasad after playing two short talks of Master on VCD.

**Allahabad** - After satsangh, a dance by children, Master's favourite bhajans sung by sisters and Master's birthday song by the youth team, were the highlights of the session. About 600 abhyasis joined in singing and wishing Master. Neem saplings were planted by abhyasis around the meditation hall. An interactive session was conducted by Sis. Nisha and group. Evening satsangh concluded the programme.

**Lucknow** - Over 200 abhyasis participated in the three day celebration. Morning meditation on 23rd July was followed by thought provoking talks and the sharing of experiences of some of the abhyasis. On 24th, 300 abhyasis reached the ashram despite the heavy rains. After the morning meditation, performances by children touched the hearts of abhyasis. An interactive play mesmerized the audience.

Punjab & Haryana - Abhyasis of Punjab and Haryana celebrated Master's birthday in their respective centres. In **Sonepat** three day celebration was organized and around hundred abhyasis participated. In addition to satsangh, Master's CD, video on life of Lalaji and DVD were played. In **Patiala** children's drawing and writing competition was organized and three satsanghs were conducted on the three days. In **Chandigarh** about fifty-five abhyasis participated. In the evening the message of Master's improvement in health, cheered all the abhyasis.

Kolkata Ashram - About 300 abhyasis from Kolkata and fifty abhyasis from satellite centers like Jharkhand, Bandel, Shantipur, etc. joined in celebrations from 23rd to 25th July. On 24th there was Rabindra Sangeet, bhajans, a DVD of Master's tour, experience sharing by seniors, talks on the importance of practicing the system and on the importance of attending bhandaras. The talks were followed by an interactive session on aspects of the Sahaj Marg method.

Post lunch the session continued with DVD talks by Master in Hindi and English and a presentation on Master's 'Down Memory Lane' helping all to be absorbed in the remembrance of the beloved.

**Jaipur:** Satsanghs were conducted at 7.30.a.m and 5.00 p.m. on three days with around 280 abhyasis and 65 children in attendance. On 24th, children sang a song and participated in the cultural activities. Talks by Br. Tarun, Sis. Anjali and Br. Anil were on different aspects of Sahaj Marg. After satsangh on 25th, Sis. Rama Kocher sang a devotional poem in praise of Babuji Maharaj.

**Udaipur**: After morning satsangh Master's biography was read and then efficacy of Sahaj Marg system was discussed. A group discussion was followed by bhajans sung by sisters. Children sang various poems. All abhyasis played a spiritual game and then pick and speak topics were given.

**Jodhpur:** The three day celebration was attended by 275 abhyasis. Abhyasis sang bhajans and did volunteer work. It was discussed that the medicine for every illness in spirituality is sadhana. Abhaysis shared their experiences after joining Sahaj Marg. Everybody prayed for Master's health.

**Ajmer:** Forty-eight abhyasis gathered for satsangh at 7:30 a.m. Video talks of Master, reading of the Special Whispers message and reading excerpts from Master's talk were part of the programme. Bhajans and poems by abhyasis as well as children and a quiz on Chariji and his life set the mood for the day. Br. P.K. Arora spoke on the importance of attending bhandaras. Satsangh at 11 a.m. was followed by a video talk. Evening satsangh was at Br. P.K. Arora's residence.

Alwar: At 'Yogashram', Alwar, from 23rd to 25th July around 160 abhyasis of Alwar and nearby Rajgarh, Khairthal, Kotputli, Bandi Kui, Mahwa and Pilwa participated in the celebration. Abhyasis remembered Master's life that exemplified many virtues of character like selfless love and service.

**Sri Ganganagar:** At Br. P.K. Midha's house around 130 abhyasis and thirty children were present. Morning satsangh was followed by book reading about Master's life. Recitation of a poem and a video on 'Guru Purnima' was shown. In the evening, children presented songs and poems.

Bhilwara: After satsangh at 7:30 a.m. bhajans from Master's Choice were presented. Some poems and bhajans were presented by abhyasis and their children. Excerpts from the book "Satya ka Uday" were read. At the end of the programme a CD "Insan Bano" was played. Fifty abhyasis were present in the morning meditation and 21 in the evening.

# Spreading the word.

#### Motivating Teachers, Kashipur, Uttarakhand

On a full day, abhyasis were divided into three groups and asked to make a list of questions generally asked by new aspirants. Then two abhyasis sat face to face and a mock session was done. Many queries came up and we realized that it is important

to know the basics of the practice and what can be said to new aspirants.

After this a brother who runs a school, motivated a group of teachers and a small gathering was conducted on 7th August. The teachers had already been given a brief idea about Sahaj Marg, along with pamphlets. An understanding and difference between small individual goals and the real goal of human life was explained, and then the advance from religion to spirituality, ending with an understanding of the practice. The talk was well received and most of the teachers exclaimed that they had never heard these concepts before.

It was noted that it is much easier to relate to and open up very comfortably with small groups, as compared to large open houses. The session, attended by about fifteen teachers lasted for one and a half hours, ending with a question answer session.

#### Students and Youth, Kolkata

An open house was organised at the ashram in Kolkata on August 12th for a group of enthusiastic new aspirants from Heritage Institute of Technology. The welcome address was followed by a comprehensive presentation on the basics of Sahai Marg by Br. Misal Mehta, CiC of Kolkata. He started by discussing how man assumes his 'socio-economic bubble' to be his real world and is therefore alienated from the 'Natural Creation'. He touched upon yoga and meditation and explained the concepts with many examples.

Following this, four young abhyasi engineers were asked to speak for a few minutes where they shared their reason for joining the Mission and their experience so far. The programme concluded with a short question-answer session. Sahaj Marg introductory brochures were distributed to around seventy people who attended. Thirty were students from Heritage, the remaining were other new aspirants and abhyasis. The feedback received was positive and some have shown interest in taking sittings.



#### Addressing Police Officers, Mysore

On 16th August 2012, Br. A.P. Durai, Joint Secretary of the Mission was invited to address thirty-nine directly recruited Deputy Superintendents of Police and nineteen sub-inspectors of police undergoing their basic training at the Karnataka Police Academy in Mysore. Shri. Amar Kumar Pandey, IPS, Inspector General of Police and Director of the Academy introduced the speaker mentioning that, as a police officer in Karnataka, he had been a role model and listed his achievements as DGP of the state in 1996-97.

Br. Durai spoke on the subject, "Character and Personality Development for Police Officers". He quoted widely from Master's teachings in this context and emphasised how karma operates in our lives and why we alone are responsible for the consequences of all our thoughts and actions. Br. Durai illustrated this principle from his own observations and experiences during his police career. His call to perform one's duties without fear or favour by devoting attention to the inner Self seemed to make an impression on them.

Quotes from Jesus Christ and the Bhagavad Gita were also received very well by the trainees who were encouraged to interact with the speaker and express their views and questions. The session lasted ninety minutes and Master's presence and inspiration was felt throughout.



#### Open house at Tiruppur ashram

A circular was issued well in advance and on 12th August around seventy-five invitees were received by the volunteer team at the Chettipalayam Yogashram, Tiruppur. Br. Ravi Subbian, CiC, welcomed the guests and explained requirements to begin the practice. A few volunteers shared their experience regarding the circumstances that led to their introduction into the Mission and how they perceived the benefits of the sadhana.

Fifty invitees received their first sittings on the same day and it took upto 4 p.m. to complete the sittings. Everyone realised that such a good response can only be due to Master's grace.

#### Youth Programme, Mysore

On the occasion of UN International Youth Day on August 12th, 2012, around thirty youth from Bangalore travelled to Mysore ashram the previous evening. They had the opportunity to get to know each other during the travel and during dinner each one was asked to introduce someone they had just met. This was followed by the Universal prayer and then a movie, 'Kings Speech' was played.

Next day after individual meditation there was time for cricket, long walks in the ashram and some games. A few youth from Mysore centre also joined in the programme. At 9.30 a.m. after satsangh and breakfast, the session began with playing Master's talk to the alumni of LMOIS. A discussion on the talk was facilitated by Sis. Priya Hegde.

The participants were divided into two groups and were given a potato to consider their friend and create a story to introduce it to the group. This involved some thinking and creativity and hilarious stories came up, mixed with spiritual and material aspects of life. After a break, there was a 'pick and

speak' session where each one was given Master's quote to speak on for about two minutes. Then the group was divided into teams for a general knowledge quiz facilitated by Sis. Ananya.

Overall, the program was short, precise and very effective and all had an opportunity to introspect, share and get to know their brothers and sisters.



A drawing event on 'Nature' was organized for children of eight to sixteen years and an essay competition on the topic 'Expectation' for youth in the age group of eighteen to thirty years was organized during the summer vacation. The results were announced on 8th July and all the drawings were displayed in the meditation centre. One drawing attracted the attention of one and all where the participant drew the different ways a child, a villager and a city person viewed nature.

#### Youth Program, Kolkata, West Bengal

There are close to 100 abhyasis in the Kolkata ashram who are within the age group 18-35 years, however it has been observed that only about 15-20 of them are active in terms of attending Sunday satsangh and participating in ashram activities. In an effort to bring them together and motivate them to participate in activities, some abhyasis got together to decide on a plan of action.

Several suggestions were received including having a database of the group, organizing book reading sessions every week after the satsangh, outdoor activities like cricket, etc. A youth booth was set up on three consecutive Sundays to encourage the abhyasis to register themselves.

Subsequently, informal sessions have been organized every Sunday for two hours since July 2012 and the numbers have been slowly but surely growing. These sessions have been interactive involving discussions on the key aspects of sadhana, encouraging abhyasis to share their experiences in terms of the changes they have observed within themselves, introspection along with group reading of various talks given by Master. We hope this group will grow under Master's guidance.



SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION®

#### **ECHOES INDIA NEWSLETTER**

## Delhi Zonal Ashram



Delhi has an ashram located in the heart of the city at R.K. Puram and the other at the Delhi-Haryana border. The latter, the Zonal ashram, is popularly known as Gurgaon ashram. It is 12 kms from the international airport and 15 kms from the domestic airport.

The ashram of 6.5 acres was inaugurated by Master on 15th June 2001. The meditation hall can accommodate nearly 2000 abhyasis. Initially, the asbestos roof and the steel trusses from the old meditation hall at Manappakkam, were used for the roof. However, during the renovation process, the asbestos sheets were replaced by formed metal sheets and the hall was enlarged by addition of extra bays at either end of the original hall. During summer, when it is scorching hot, there is a water sprinkler to wet the rooftop. In addition, the roof has also been insulated and the heat inside the meditation hall has considerably reduced.

Master's office is on one side of the meditation hall, overlooking a lush green lawn where he sits during his visits. On 20th April 2008 Master inaugurated this building and planted two saplings in the front. He also unveiled the statue of Dhronacharya, from whom it is believed the name Gurgaon (Guru + gaon) is derived.

A large kitchen is at one corner of the ashram and a part of it functions as the canteen. A modern toilet block is available with provision for extra toilets whenever there is a large gathering. The ashram has sufficient parking space. The children's centre and book stall is near one of the main gates with a playing area for children outside. More than half the ashram area is used for organic farming of many seasonal vegetables. Four gardeners and a caretaker along with their families live in the ashram. This is also the distribution centre for Mission publications to nearby centres. There is a full day programme conducted on every first Sunday of the month.

On 31st May 2009, after conducting satsangh at the ashram, Master changed the satsangh timings universally across the globe to 7.30 a.m. in the morning. Master stressed the purpose of human existence and stated, "I wish to bring back to all of you the consciousness that everything that we do in life - breathing, eating and drinking, working, leisure, sleep - everything must conform to this rule that this is for survival, and survival is only for one purpose, so that I evolve myself out of this human level into what is called the divine."

# Centre of Light











To download or subscribe to this newsletter, please visit <a href="http://www.sahajmarg.org/newsletter/india">http://www.sahajmarg.org/newsletter/india</a> For feedback, suggestions and news articles please send email to in.newsletter@srcm.org

© 2011 Shri Ram Chandra Mission ("SRCM"). All rights reserved. "Shri Ram Chandra Mission", "Sahaj Marg", "SRCM", "Constant Remembrance" and the Mission's Emblem are registered Trademarks of Shri Ram Chandra Mission. This Newsletter is intended exclusively for the members of SRCM. The views expressed in the various articles are provided by various volunteers and are not necessarily those of SRCM.