

ONE world Humanity

A SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION PUBLICATION



SEEKING THE PATH TO PEACE 1

A shared goal of the United Nations and the Shri Ram Chandra Mission

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On Yoga Day, all are invited to join in the collective experience of Heartfulness Meditation – a form of raja yoga – at programs hosted by the meditation centers of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission.



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This house, dedicated to work and debate in the service of peace, should have one room dedicated to silence in the outward sense and stillness in the inner sense.



ONE WORLD ONE HUMANITY... seeks to raise awareness of the United Nations, and the role of Shri Ram Chandra Mission in supporting the principles and goals set out in the U.N. Charter.

Seeking the Path to Peace

A shared goal of the United Nations and the Shri Ram Chandra Mission

In 1945, the Second World War was approaching its grim conclusion.

Humankind was confronted with the consequences of having unleashed upon the world the darkest human energy.

The world's political leaders responded by proposing a United Nations, an institution of nation states dedicated to promoting tolerance and peace.

The mission of the United Nations – as set out in the preamble to its charter – is to promote “solidarity, good will and collective responsibility among the world's nations and peoples in order to establish a lasting peace and sustainable development for all.”

At this same political moment, 1945, the Shri Ram Chandra Mission was established in India, with the purpose of supporting the spiritual advancement of humankind.

Ram Chandra ji popularly known as “Babuji”, the Mission’s founder, wrote the following in a letter he sent to the United Nations in 1957:

“To dissipate the idea of individual self and to work harmoniously for the common good is the demand of the time. . . .

“We must learn how to create within the heart a feeling of universal love, which is [the] surest remedy of all evils and can help to free us from the horrors of war. . . . Unless the foundation of peace is made to rest on [a] spiritual basis, no better prospects can be expected.”

There is an echo of these words in an observation made by UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, who is reported to have said: “Unless there is a spiritual renaissance, the world will know no peace.”

In 2005, the Shri Ram Chandra Mission entered into a formal working relationship with the United Nations. As an international non-governmental organization, the Mission supports principles of tolerance, justice and peace.

In this collaboration, the Mission provides a platform for people who come together to pursue a simple, practical meditation technique that disciplines the mind and opens the heart to the spirit of brotherhood and universal love.

The Mission undertakes its association with the UN in the faith that, ultimately, selfless actions will govern the destiny of human beings.

The UN would advance justice and peace by developing policy reforms, providing direct services, and by engaging in legal and political advocacy. The spiritual leaders of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission find the impetus for transformation of the world in the hearts of men and women.

INTRODUCING DAAJI

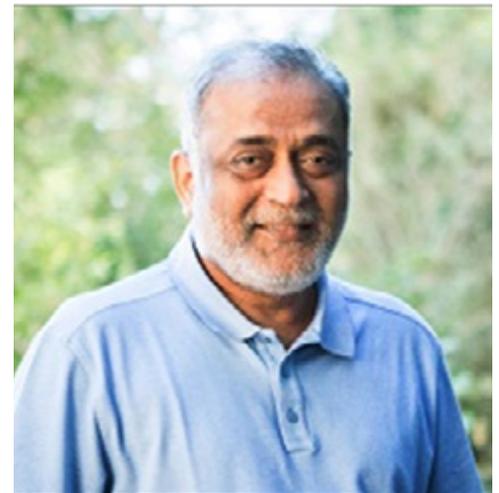
Shri Kamlesh D. Patel was born in Gujarat, India. From an early age he was interested in spirituality and meditation, and eventually came to the feet of his Guru, Shri Ram Chandra of Shahjahanpur (Babuji), the founder-president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, while still a student of pharmacy in Ahmedabad in 1976. After graduating, he moved to the USA, and became a successful pharmacist in New York City, while continuing the practice of Sahaj Marg meditation with great devotion. After the mahasamadhi of Babuji in 1983, Kamlesh ji continued as the devotee of Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari (Chariji), Babuji’s successor and the second president of Shri Ram Chandra Mission. During the last twenty years, he has held a number of responsible roles within SRCM, and was announced as Chariji’s successor in October 2011, and given the position of vice president of SRCM in August 2012.

Following the mahasamadhi of Chariji on the 20th December 2014, he is now the spiritual Master of the Sahaj Marg system of raja yoga meditation and president of SRCM.

Kamlesh ji is married with two sons. He is a prolific speaker, and is a role model for students of spirituality who seek that perfect blend of Eastern heart and Western mind. He has travelled extensively and is at home with people from all backgrounds and walks of life, giving special attention to the youth of today.



Chariji, 1927-2014
Second President of the Shri
Ram Chandra Mission



Kamlesh D. Patel
Third President of the Shri Ram
Chandra Mission

United Nations International Day of Yoga

On December 11, 2014, members of the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 21 as International Day of Yoga. The resolution, supported by 175 UN member states, was adopted in recognition of the “holistic benefits of this ancient practice for health and wellbeing.” Upon introducing the resolution, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature.”

On Yoga Day, all are invited to join in the collective experience of Heartfulness Meditation – a form of raja yoga – at programs hosted by the meditation centers of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission. The photos that appear alongside this piece were taken on June 21, 2016. At first glimpse it may appear that people around the globe are all sitting in the same manner. But with a closer look, these photographs reveal great diversity. The concept One World One Humanity does not speak of uniformity, but of existential oneness. Each photo depicts people – young and old, in the East and in the West – engaged in silent meditation, focusing their attention upon the heart’s inner light.

Heartfulness Meditation programs were held on Yoga Day at sites around the world – in yoga studios, school classrooms, public parks, government offices and corporate meeting rooms. Many of these programs were undertaken in partnership with local organizations. These events attracted a diverse community of people who came together in silent meditation, including –

Medical students, administrators and others at the Agrash Medical College in Agroha, Hisar (Haryana, India);



Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bangalore, India



Guntur, India



Shrirampur, India



California, USA



Mulhouse, France



Tirupati, India



Stadium in Faridabad, India



Dubai, UAE



Pune, India



Indianapolis, USA

Heartfulness Meditation is a form of raja yoga – a silent heart-centered meditation practice. The Shri Ram Chandra Mission provides training and support – in India and in countries throughout the world – to individuals interested in pursuing the practice of meditation: www.heartfulness.org.

Members of a community that gathers at the Maison Des Berges, in Mulhouse, France; and

Individuals who participated in a Heartfulness program at the Dubai Trade Center, an event co-sponsored by Yoga Dubai, the Dubai Sports Council and the Consulate General of India in Dubai.

You can learn more about Heartfulness Meditation at heartfulness.org.

International Day of Yoga Committee at the United Nations



The International Day of Yoga Committee at the UN was created with the goal of supporting the implementation of the General Assembly resolution that established the International Day of Yoga. The Committee seeks to raise awareness of yoga as a holistic practice that promotes health and well-being; and to deepen understanding of yoga as a dynamic discipline – based upon unifying principles – that facilitates harmony, peace, tolerance, interdependence, and respect for all forms of life.

Since 2015, the Committee has organized many events at the UN, most recently a program commemorating the International Day of Peace, on September 21, 2016. The speakers at this program appear in the photo above, along with members of the Committee.

Dag Hammarskjöld – UN Secretary General, Spiritual Seeker



Photo: UN Meditation Room

Dag Hammarskjöld served as Secretary General of the United Nations from 1953 to 1961; he is widely regarded by historians as one of the UN's most effective leaders.

It was revealed only after his death (at least in the public sense) that Hammarskjöld was engaged in a searching inquiry into what he understood to be his spiritual calling – both as a human being, and as a civil servant. Contemplative by nature, he believed that time set aside for solitude and stillness was essential to undertaking “work and debate in the service of peace.”

For this purpose, he created a space for quiet reflection at the UN headquarters in New York City. The following text, written by Hammarskjöld, is excerpted from a document provided to those who visit the UN Meditation Room:

“We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence. This house, dedicated to work and debate in the service of peace, should have one room dedicated to silence in the outward sense and stillness in the inner sense.

“It has been the aim to create in this small room a place where the doors may be open to the infinite lands of thought and prayer. People of many faiths will meet here, and for that reason none of the symbols to which we are accustomed in our meditation could be used.”

“So in the middle of the room we see a symbol of how, daily, the light of the skies gives life to the earth on which we stand, a symbol to many of us of how the light of the spirit gives life to matter. . . .

“There is an ancient saying that the sense of a vessel is not in its shell but in the void. So it is with this room. It is for those who come here to fill the void with what they find in their center of stillness.”

All-India Essay Writing Competition



Every year the Shri Ram Chandra Mission hosts programs for youth on the practice of meditation in the service of inner peace, tolerance and collective responsibility. Above: Young people from the United States at the International Youth Seminar in Kanha (Madya Pradesh), India, April 2016.

Every year, SRCM in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan sponsor an All-India Essay Writing Event on the occasion of International Youth Day, observed on the twelfth of August.

Young people from across the country are invited to express their thoughts and feelings about creating a global community committed to peace, cooperation and collective well-being. Students can choose to express themselves in English, Hindi

or one of nine regional languages of India. Topics are proposed based upon students' education level. In 2016, students in classes 9 through 12 were invited to write on Robert Swan's observation that "the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it. Students attending an undergraduate or post graduate program were asked to respond to Sydney J. Harris's assertion that "the whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

This year 13,766 educational institutions across the country participated in the event, reaching over 5 million youth in India. Approximately 160,000 essays were shortlisted by these institutions and submitted for evaluation at regional and national levels. Essays by the winners of the 2016 International Youth Day competition can be found at

http://www.sahajmarg.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ce2d690a-0f2c-49e0-b4e6-2e2274dfaf5a&groupId=10128

The Secretary-General, Appeal for Peace

1 January 2017 New York

On my first day as Secretary-General of the United Nations, one question weighs heavily on my heart.

How can we help the millions of people caught up in conflict, suffering massively in wars with no end in sight?

Civilians are pounded with deadly force. Women, children and men are killed and injured, forced from their homes, dispossessed and destitute. Even hospitals and aid convoys are targeted.

No one wins these wars; everyone loses. Trillions of dollars are spent destroying societies and economies, fueling cycles of mistrust and fear that can last for generations. Whole regions

are destabilized and the new threat of global terrorism affects us all.

On this New Year's Day, I ask all of you to join me in making one shared New Year's resolution:

Let us resolve to put peace first.

Let us make 2017 a year in which we all – citizens, governments, leaders – strive to overcome our differences.

From solidarity and compassion in our daily lives, to dialogue and respect across political divides... From ceasefires on the battlefield, to compromise at the negotiating table to reach political solutions...

Peace must be our goal and our guide.

All that we strive for as a human family – dignity and hope, progress and prosperity – depends on peace.

But peace depends on us.

I appeal to you all to join me in committing to peace, today and every day.

Let us make 2017 a year for peace.

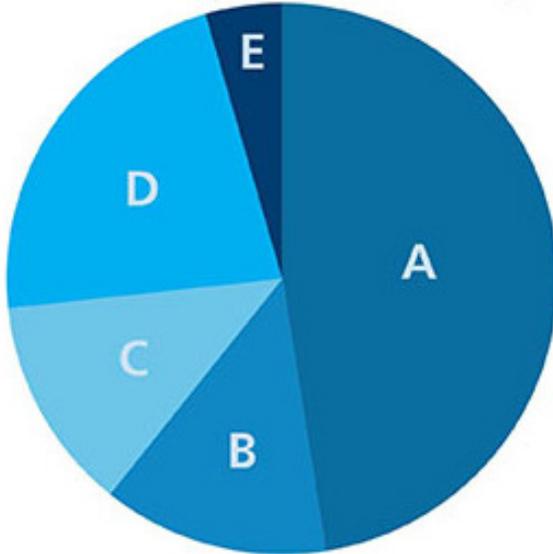
Thank you.

From the UN Secretary General website:

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-01-01/appeal-peace-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres>

UN Economic Impact Report 2016

Total output to NYC economy from the UN Community is \$3.69 billion



A – UN: \$1,752

B – Agencies and Affiliates: \$490

C – Missions: \$464

D – Operating Expenditures: \$820

E – Visitor Spending: \$166

Annual output in millions of 2014 dollars



You Are Invited To Join The Conversation

Great advances in social justice begin not with court rulings and legislative enactments – but, rather, with the opening of hearts.

These are ultimately victories of the human spirit, an aligning of hearts with tolerance, peace, justice, truth, and – ultimately – with love.

It is in this spirit that we invite members of the global community to send along articles, essays, photos, videos and artwork on the theme of One World One Humanity.

Contact: un@srcm.org

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