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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 communicating that ideal of oneness.

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One World One Humanity



Photo: SRCM Banashankari Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011 Silent prayer before painting

"...This is a huge exercise, in simply understanding the grandiosity or the audacity of thought behind it, that we can make a difference by simply changing ourselves and by simply praying. I don't think I need to reiterate the importance of this prayer. It is the basis of this entire program. Please feel free to use these days to have events in your communities, where we really believe in One World, One Family, inviting people to pray together, because that is going to be the bedrock of this family."

Rishabh C. Kothari, (see cover article below)

Dynamics of the Mission's Partnership with the United Nations

Rishabh C. Kothari, Address to the North American Seminar, Chennai, February 2012; edited for publication

Rishabh C. Kothari, (Brother Raja), is the SRCM Representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) under the non-governmental organisation status (NGO)

Master has spoken about the three pillars of the practice of our spiritual life: the Master, the Method and the Mission. What I am going to share with all of you is one aspect of the Mission. As an organisation, we do not engage in publicity-seeking activities. When a spiritual organisation decides to partner with a public or political or a social aid organisation, like the United Nations, what are the dynamics of this entire relationship?

I would like to share with you a vision that Master has shared with all of us. A lot of you may be familiar with a letter that Revered Babuji Maharaj wrote to the Secretary General in 1945. This letter has been widely circulated, in context of the UN programmes which it is part of, and in some of our publications. In this letter, Babuji refers to the importance of humanity

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working together for the benefit of humanity, and lays down a very broad principle on the basis of which our relationship with the United Nations works: that is the concept of prayer – universal love, universal prayer. Babuji had also sent a message to Revered Master, where he reiterated the importance of prayer, the Universal Prayer – or the Nine O'clock Prayer as we know it – the need for all abhyasis to sit together and pray for the spiritual transformation of humankind, taking in the theme of this seminar- One World, One Family.

Coming back to this relationship, the United Nations as an organisation has its own char-



Photo: SRCM, Shri Ram Chandra (Babuji) Founder-President of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (1945-1983)

ter. There are three aspects closely related to some of the objectives that the Mission is trying to achieve: they are spiritual, educational and social. Our association with the United Nations has been built on identifying shared goals, objectives, and working together to meet those spiritual, social humanitarian and educational objectives. This partnership has matured over time and given shape to a specific ideology enabling the world to come together in prayer and work together for the benefit of mankind.

We observe United Nations commemorative days whose themes in some way match our objectives by sharing this global vision with other communities, to tell them that what we are doing can benefit everyone, it is universal in nature. That is the basic principle on which we have been working. This year, for the United Nations commemoration days, the theme is "The Future We Want" which is looking at this change, first in ourselves, and then in larger and larger groups, till we are confidently able to say that this is One World, One Family.

For United Nations Day of Families on the fifteenth of May, World Environment Day on the fifth of June, World Peace Day on the twenty-first of September

and UN Children's day on the twentieth of November, we invite a larger community – friends, relatives and colleagues – to get together with us and pray. We use the prayer as an agent for world change.

"This partnership has matured over time and given shape to a specific ideology enabling the world to come together in prayer and work together for the benefit of mankind."

In India, the All-India Essay writing event has been organised in partnership with the United Nations as a specific initiative for the UN Youth Day, with a phenomenal response – two years ago, all over India, 500,000 students participated in the All-India Essay writing. Last year, we cut down on the number of languages offered, because of the sheer logistics. The final statistics for 2011, are close to 200,000 essays and ten thousand institutions.

At the end of the day, we have winners, who have been given accolades for having written very well, but we have a situation where 500,000 students have embarked on a specific

Dynamics of the Mission's Partnership with the United Nations



Photo: SRCM North American Seminar, Chennai February 2012

journey of inner reflection. It is really hoped that this will kick-start within them a process of understanding that there are other beliefs, higher ideals to understand and to reflect upon.

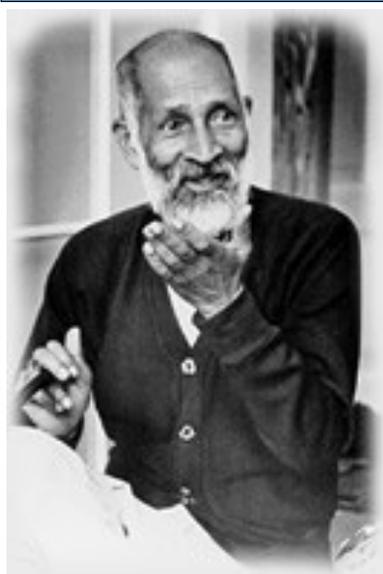
When we talk about society changing, people changing, it is these small initiatives, it is these small things that can matter most. There is no radical change that is going to come about in society overnight, but yes, when

every student writes, when every student reflects upon something, we can be hopeful that tomorrow they are going to be far more aware, better citizens of this world.

This is a perspective that I wanted to share with all of you. This is a huge exercise, in simply understanding the grandiosity or the audacity of thought behind it, that we can make a

difference by simply changing ourselves and by simply praying. I don't think I need to reiterate the importance of this prayer. It is the basis of this entire program. Please feel free to use these days to have events in your communities, where we really believe in One World, One Family, inviting people to pray together, because that is going to be the bedrock of this family.

Thank you very much. †



“ Unless the foundation of peace is made to rest on a spiritual basis, no better prospects can be expected”

Shri Ram Chandra (8th July 1957)
Founder President of Shri Ram
Chandra Mission (1945-1983)

“ Unless there is spiritual renaissance, the world will know no peace”

Dag Hammarskjöld
Secretary-General of the
United Nations (1953-1961)

Sahaj Marg Around the World

2011 Annual Essay Writing Event Results



Photo: SRCM, Banashankari Ashram, Winners of the All-India Essay Event display their awards

The prestigious All-India Essay Writing Event is organised by Shri Ram Chandra Mission in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan. The annual essay event commemorates UN Youth Day, 12 August, across India with essay topics given by Revered Master. "Change and the world changes for you" was the topic for 2011 Category 1 (Class 9 to 12) and Category 2 (Upper Grades and Post Graduate) topic was "Success must bestow humility".

Over 9,000 institutions and 145,000 students participated in the essay event. Ahmednagar, Nasik, Delhi,

Kolkata, and Banashankari Ashrams held event distribution ceremonies for hundreds of students, with families and teachers in attendance.

"Because by working for yourself, faithfully, sincerely, the future of humanity can change. You should not think, "How can I change the world?" You are not going to change the world. But when you change, the world will change. So this is what we have to offer to you."

P. Rajagopalachari, Youth: a Time of Promise and for Effort, p 69 (Chennai: Shri Ram Chandra Mission, 2004)

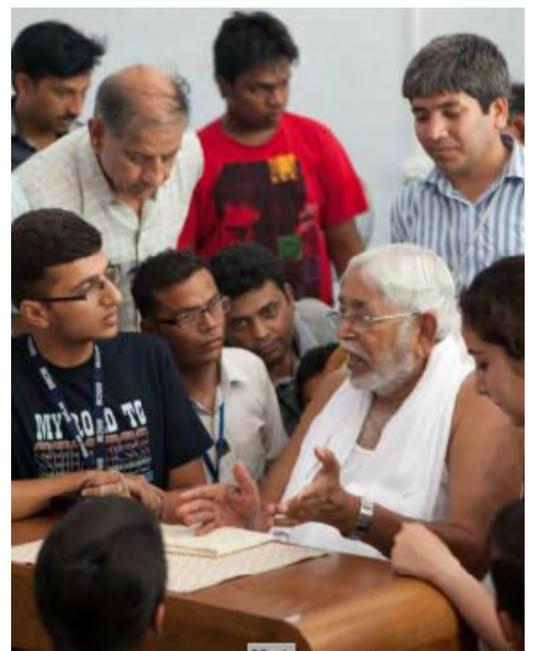


Photo: SRCM

Sahaj Marg Around the World

NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS : ALL INDIA ESSAY EVENT 2011

Award	Name of Winner	Name of Institution, Place
Category 1 (Class 9 to 12)		
Across all languages Winner (All India Level)		
	ABHIRAMI HARILAL	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kolazhy, Thrissur
Language: English		
1st Prize	Abhirami Harilal	Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kolazhy, Thrissur
2nd Prize	Bhagyasri Chaudhury	Modern High School For Girls, Kolkata
3rd Prize	Chandra Yerrappa	Lalaji Memorial Omega International School, Chennai
Language: Hindi		
1st Prize	Shubham Srivastava	Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Sanatan Dharm Vidyalaya, Kanpur
2nd Prize	Juhi Verma	Bhagwandeem Arya Kanya Inter College, Lakhimpur-Kheri
3rd Prize	Rashika Aggarwal	DAV Public School,D.H.Road, Kolkata
Language: Telugu		
1st Prize	J.Kuvalaya Datta	Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Hyderabad
2nd Prize	N.Varshitha	Pratibha Junior College, Suryapet
3rd Prize	M.Shulomithi	Navodaya Vidya Mandir, Suryapet

Category 2 (UG/PG)		
Across all languages Winner (All India Level)		
	IKKSHETA SHARMA	University Institute Of Pharmaceutical Sciences Punjab University, Chandigarh
Language: English		
1st Prize	Ikksheta Sharma	UIPS, Punjab University, Chandigarh
2nd Prize	Srijita Roy	Future Institute of Engineering & Management, Kolkata
3rd Prize	Reetika Kumari Agarwal	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Language: Hindi		
1st Prize	Saurabh Singh Bhadauria	Amity School of Engineering, NOIDA
2nd Prize	Vijay Pratap	JSS Academy of Technical Education, NOIDA
3rd Prize	Sandhya Dwivedi	D.D.U.G.K.P. University, Gorakhpur
Language: Telugu		
1st Prize	S.Rupika	IIIT, Nuzivedu, Ramchandrapuram
2nd Prize	V.S.Raju Shanmukhi	Dr.L.B.PG College, Vishakhapatnam
3rd Prize	Bala Gayatri Vaddadhi	Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam

“... if you read those essays, you will be able to understand the depth from which lot of students have written. The kind of ideas, the kind of reflection that they are capable of is simply mind-boggling. When we talk about society changing, when we talk about people changing, it is these small initiatives, it is these small things that can matter most.”

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011

Members and children of Shri Ram Chandra Mission celebrated Universal Children's Day with their guests during the month of November 2011. While engaged in artwork, crafts, and story telling, the themes led participants to the importance of prayer and developing values in creating a future world that they could imagine. Local centres in *Singapore, India, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, Australia and North America* observed the occasion.



Photo: SRCM Galway Centre, Ireland, Universal Children's Day 2011



Photos: SRCM Singapore Centre, Universal Children's Day 2011

Singapore

Our Future World, What We Would Like to Be was the theme for the UN Children's Day celebration at the Singapore meditation centre. It was an

afternoon of fun filled with art and craft displays, potting of plants, kids games, and snacks. Invitations extended to the local community to join the festivities for the afternoon. Eight guests attended for twenty-four adults, and twenty-four children participated.

A time of quiet commemoration followed the activities. All were invited to join in quiet contem-

plation and to hold the positive thought in their minds and hearts that peace and piety are growing among all people of this world.

Bangalore, India

To mark the UN Universal Children's Day, Banashankari Ashram in Bangalore, India hosted a *Painting Event* for about 120 children of abhyasis and guests.



Photos: SRCM Singapore Centre, Universal Children's Day 2011

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011



Photos: SRCM Banashankari Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011

The event was part of a community building initiative for abhyasis to gather in the ashram along with friends and family. After two minutes of silent prayer, painting activities began. Children, divided into age groups were given age specific themes. Three to six years, received the topic of *Green, Green everywhere!* Seven to ten years, *I have a dream and its 'Green'*. Eleven to fifteen years were given the topic, *Our world, our space*. Children were encouraged to think aloud on their topic and come out with ideas. The next one hour saw focused drawing and painting by the children to create beautiful works of art.



Photos: SRCM Banashankari Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011



Photo: SRCM Banashankari Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011

Completed paintings hung around the ashram while the children had refreshments.

While children were painting, parents joined a session about the association between Shri Ram Chandra Mission and the United Nations DPI. The session ended with a prayer meditation that "All people of the world are growing peace-loving and pious", which brought a very subtle feeling of togetherness.

After tea, snacks, and photos, the children collected their paintings, and each received a gift, with a lot of excitement. The ashram was full and it was a beautiful feeling to watch

everyone keenly participating in the activities.

Volunteers played a big part planning, coordinating, contributing time and services to make it a smooth and enjoyable day for the children.

Galway, Ireland

"One Human Family" was the theme celebrated for the 2011 UN Children's Day event at the Galway Sahaj Marg Meditation Centre. Fourteen children ages two to ten years old shared in a workshop enjoying various games and stories on the theme. They mimed different jobs useful in a community and found



Photos: SRCM Galway Centre, Ireland, Universal Children's Day 2011



Photos: SRCM Banashankari Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011

out how they all depended on each other. Making a jigsaw puzzle together, they became aware of how they needed to work together in order to complete the task, of how they were all part of a whole, and that if one piece was missing, the whole wasn't complete. Later, all joined in a prayer for children in the world. Their suggestions for the prayer were that 'all children are safe, not scared, and happy'.



Photo: SRCM Turin Centre, Italy Universal Children's Day 2011

After a lovely lunch, the children took part in an art workshop and worked in small groups to represent the world and its inhabitants. A beautiful light atmosphere of love and cooperation pervaded the whole day.

Turin, Italy

For the occasion of the UN Universal Day of Children 2011, Turin center held a zonal seminar on Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 November for a workshop on *Convention around children's rights*, associates and family were invited.

The Saturday workshop as preparation for the UN day, (Sunday), created an enriching and deep experience for attendees. Children followed the interactive programme easily, and willingly participated in the

holy space of silence and reflection exploring the questions about joyfulness, children's needs and rights and duties. They wrote their answers with particular attention using coloured pens, trying to write at the best possible level. Discussions centred on stories and principles of the UN Charter of Children's Rights. Everyone showed interest, listened to others and answered from one's own point of view. Reflective discussion revealed newfound awareness of human differences and rights.

On Sunday, a presentation discussed the SRCM-UNDPI partnership and the purpose of the UN Universal Day of Children. The conversation deepened as the leader utilized the previous day's experience of work and discussions with the children to describe the contribution of the Universal Prayer to the process

of unification of hearts. She invited all to pray at 21.00 as Revered Master has indicated.

Throughout the two-day workshop, five children, from seven to ten years old, and fifty-eight adults, including three guests attended. A conclusive invitation to reflect more on the occasions offered by UN days focused the abhyasis on the opportunity to share with the local community.

Perth, Australia

Youth commemorated United Nations Universal Children's Day 2011 on the theme, *Change Your World*. Skits performed by the younger children included one about a kind hearted doctor, a kind nurse and a poor sick lady, entitled *Gopi. Annanyia, Shriya*.

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011

The second skit enacted was *The kind hearted President, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Construction*. Sister Bavia presented *A Wish for the World and the Less Privileged Children*. Pooja presented a prayer/wish she wrote and played the violin. The teenage team, Prahald (piano and singing), SriRam (singing) and Adarsh (guitar) sang a marvellous song for which they wrote lyrics and the music. It was very touching and we had an encore.

After observing a minute of silent prayer, everyone sang with the children the song *Heal the World*. Lyrics were on overhead for everyone to sing along. The French Dosa (crepes) snacks delighted everyone.

Johannesburg, South Africa

Lenasia Ashram celebrated Universal Children's Day on 19 November 2011. It turned out to be a fun filled day for children and their parents, and many abhyasis were involved in lending a hand to make the occasion a successful and memorable



Photo: SRCM Montessori School, Johannesburg, South Africa, Universal Children's Day 2011

one. Youth volunteers did a wonderful job of co-ordinating the event. They organized the children's activities, which included creating wonderful artworks from waste and using their imagination to invent relevant stories about their creations. The children were delighted to stand up together in the ashram and share these experiences with family and friends. In addition, children enjoyed a variety of games, sporting activities, a jumping castle and a water slide.

I wish for one, I wish for thee
My prayer for you means everything to me
I ask for your help and for your blessing
Please answer my prayer, don't leave me guessing

Bless my past, my present and my future with love
Let prosperity fly further than the path of a dove
My prayer for you is special, it won't ever cease
You protect, help and love at the simplest of ease

When I study I pray to you
To help me succeed in what ever I may do
My prayer for you is important for me
It removes my bad thoughts refreshingly

My prayers are filled with heart and admiration
If only one day I could be a sensation
When I chant your name nothing matters to me
Your name is natural and beautiful - it is the key

All in all, my prayer for you
Is bubbling with love, adoration too
When I am frustrated and unable to see
My prayer for you makes it all clear to me

I wish for one, I wish for thee
My prayer for you means everything to me
I ask for your help and for your blessing
Please answer my prayer and don't leave me guessing

Photo: SRCM Perth Centre, Australia, Pooja's Prayer Universal Children's Day 2011



Photo: SRCM Lenasia Ashram, South Africa, Universal Children's Day 2011

Sahaj Marg Around the World Universal Children's Day 20 November 2011



Photos: SRCM Plainsboro, New Jersey, USA Universal Children's Day 2011

group between three and eleven years attended the program. The meaning of Universal Children's day was introduced with the theme of *My world and me*. Everyone was to draw their future world as they imagined it. The highlight of the event was the Tree of Values. The children participated in making a tree on and wrote values that made them a better person on the leaves. All prayed for five minutes for universal welfare

and gave a brief explanation to the children about United Nations and SRCM. One of the participants commented, *"It is amazing to learn the interest of each child to know about their own rights and about spirituality"*. It was a very enriching experience for the children and the adults. It was astonishing to see all the new ideas and values the children came up with.

‡



Photos: SRCM Plainsboro, New Jersey, USA Universal Children's Day 2011

Sahaj Marg Around the World International Day of Families 15 May 2012



Photo: SRCM

“ When we want one humankind, one humanity, one world, perhaps one universe someday, we have to find the uniting factor, not the dividing factor! And that is what I think spirituality is all about. ”¹

“ In our aims we have the highest. It is the oneness of all humans and a human brotherhood in which there is no separation, no alienation, no differentiation. ”²

¹ (P. Rajagopalachari, Parthasarthi, *Thus Speaks Chariji*, Chapter 'Spirituality', p. 25)

² From a speech given by Rev. Master on 23rd July, 2008 at Lucknow, UP, India <<http://www.sahajmarg.org/literature/online/speeches/oneness-of-all-humans>>

South Africa local centres honoured UN International Day of Families on 15 May 2012, with prayer programmes.

Shri Ram Chandra local South African centres hosted prayer programmes in the evening in honour of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2012.

Some prayer programmes were also held at schools in Gauteng and Port Elizabeth to raise awareness of this UN Commemorative Day as well as its theme and significance.

We are happy to support the United Nations by contributing to the spirit of universal brother-

hood and togetherness on Family Day by participating in the Universal Prayer that requires us to close our eyes at 21h00 and maintain the thought, for about fifteen minutes, that all people of the world are becoming peace loving and pious. We request all to please feel free to join us at this time from wherever you are if they so wish. †

UN EDUCATION FIRST, A GLOBAL INITIATIVE

The United Nations Secretary-General's initiative to ensure quality, relevant and transformative education for everyone.

Education First

AN INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS, 2012-2013

- 20* NOVEMBER, U.N. UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY
- 15* MAY, U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES
- 5* JUNE, WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 12* AUGUST, U.N. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
- 21* SEPTEMBER, U.N. WORLD PEACE DAY

All-India Essay Writing Event 2012

Commemorating the International Day of Youth

ORGANIZED BY



SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE



UN Information Centre
New Delhi

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE FOR INDIA AND BHUTAN

WEB ARCHIVES

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FOR MORE ARCHIVES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROGRAMMES ORGANIZED BY SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION ON VARIOUS U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAYS, VISIT THE “ONE WORLD” WEB PAGES:
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