

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.

[Email: un.info@srcm.org](mailto:un.info@srcm.org)

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One World One Humanity



Photo: UN 65th Annual DPI/ NGO Conference, Her Excellency Ms Samantha Power Permanent Representative of the USA to the UN

65th UN Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference New York City, 27-29 Aug 2014

"2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda"

DPI/NGO Conference Report by Participant Krishna Linga - USA

The 65th UN Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda," provided an opportunity for civil society networks and activists to mobilise messaging, advocacy strategies, partnerships and accountability frameworks in the lead-up to intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The resulting declaration will be shared with the UN system, the UN Member States, the global civil society and other stakeholders.

Participants numbered more than 2,000 civil society members from

Sahaj Marg Around the World

DPI/NGO Conference New York City

more than 117 countries worldwide, who discussed how inequalities can be arrested and reversed through effective advocacy and public policy.

The conference concentrated on poverty eradication, sustainability, climate justice, human rights and partnerships, and accountability frameworks. Representatives from various civil societies talked about the future global development agenda that will establish goals and activities on a range of issues. I found this conference an opportunity to interact with loving and caring hearts that are trying to touch the hearts of other human beings in some way. I sensed that all members present were willing and working in some manner to help those who lack basic necessities. I was especially touched by the speech given by H.E. Ms Samantha Power, US Permanent Representative to the UN, about her passion to assist others, and Mr Casey Gerald, Founder of MBAs across America, who spoke about spirituality and healing the hearts of world leaders through spiritual practices.

Workshops attended

Ethical and Spiritual Values and Sustainable Development Goals presented sustainable development goals and indicators from a range of ethical and spiritual perspectives, including those of various religious and spiritual (and inter-spiritual) organisa-



Photo: UN 65th Annual DPI/ NGO Conference, Mr Krishna Linga, SRM Participant

tions, the Earth Charter, and the People's Sustainability Treaties. After a brief exploration of the UN declarations history on ethics and spirituality, improvements were suggested, derived from their ethical and spiritual commitments and practices.

Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing for Youth in the New Post – 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda: Psychological Principles, Science and Practices highlighted escalating stresses and mental health problems challenging contemporary youth, and considered how to work inter-generationally to mitigate alarming statistics regarding youth suicide and the World Health Organization projection that depression will be the leading global disease by 2030. Facilitators dispelled neg-

ative connotations and stigma surrounding those with mental health issues, encouraging constructive conversation regarding mental health for all.

Interfaith Progressive Values Promote Universal Human Rights posited religion as a bridge among policy makers, advocacy groups and global citizens. It proposed that because religion incorporates frameworks inviting moral and ethical commitments to establishing a more just world, progressive religions have a responsibility to assume leadership in the sustainable development movement. This workshop invited religious institutions and individuals to recognise responsibility in addressing sustainable development as a moral and ethical value. †

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2013 All-India Essay Writing Event

Organised by SRCM and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) India and Bhutan to commemorate the International Youth Day each year, the 2013 All India Essay Writing Event marked the ninth year of partnership between the two organisations.

While participants were free to discuss and research the topic, they were to introspect and present their own understanding of the subject. The essay of Harshita in English and Ankur in Hindi were adjudged the best across all languages in their respective categories at the All India level. They were each awarded a trophy and a certificate signed by the Director UNIC and President, SRCM jointly.

“All these measures help us to cultivate a beautiful heart that gives birth to a wise mind. Your external reality is a manifestation of your mental and spiritual self.”

Harshita Chari



Photo: SRCM 2014, All-India Prize Distribution 2013 Winner Category 1, Harshita Chari, Dr A.N. Khosla DAV Public School, Rourkela, Orissa

The essays of the top two winners have been posted on the SRCM website.

“Minds are opened only when hearts are opened”, a quote from Revered Master’s talk to students of LMOIS, was the topic for Category 1.



Photo: SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, TN North



Photo: (Left, Middle) SRCM 2014, All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Director IIT, West Bengal, awards certificates to winners

Photo: (Right) SRCM 2014, All-India Prize Distribution 2013 Winner Category 2, Ankur Chakravarty, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Sahaj Marg Around the World

2013 All-India Essay Writing Event

The Essay Event for 2013, organized across all the zones of SRCM (30 in 2013), resulted in participation from 12,193 educational institutions, numbering 158,671 Category 1 essays and 19,918 Category 2 essays for a total of 178,589 essays in all languages. Prize distribution ceremonies were held at vari-



Photo: SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Tinsukia, Assam



Photo: SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Jalandhar, Inspector General of Border Security Force honours the zonal prize winner with a certificate and bronze medal

ous centres and saw unprecedented attendance of parents and teachers apart from the school and zonal level award winners. Reports of events have come from centres in TN South (Paramakudi, Kovilpatti, Tiruppur, Gopichettipalayam, Sivagan-gai), Maharashtra (Chikali, Ahmednagar, Mumbai, Osmanabad, Pune, Paithan,

Aurangabad), UP (Bareilly, Hardoi, Meerut, Moradabad, Lucknow, Shahjahanpur), N. Karnataka (Gulbarga, Hubli, Basavakalyan, Bellary, Belgaum), Kerala (Aluva, Palakkad), Ranchi, Delhi, West Bengal (Siliguri, Kharagpur, Raniganj, Kolkata), Rajasthan (Beawer, Bali), Adhra Pradesh (Kurnool) and Punjab (Jalandhar). †



Photo: (Left) SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Tinsukia, Assam

Photo: (Middle) SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Silesian Institute of Philosophy Nashik, Maharashtra

Photo: (Right) SRCM 2014 All-India Prize Distribution 2013, Certificate of Appreciation being awarded to the Head of the Silesian Institute of Philosophy Nashik, Maharashtra

Invitation to Participate



“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, *Thus Speaks Chariji* (1999), p. 25

² P. Rajagopalachari, 'Oneness of all Humans', <<http://www.sahajmarg.org/literature/online/speeches/oneness-of-all-humans>>

2015 Prize Distribution Ceremonies for the 2014 All India Essay Event are currently underway throughout India at various locations.



Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and
United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan
invite you to participate in

ALL - INDIA ESSAY WRITING EVENT - 2014



TOPICS

Category 1 [Classes 9 to 12] This above all: to thine own self be true. (Shakespeare)	Category 2 [UG and PG] To be truthful is to be human.
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For detailed Guidelines, Brochure and Evaluation Criterion, please log on to:
www.sahajmarg.org/essay-event

The prestigious All-India Essay Event is an annual collaborative effort of the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan and Shri Ram Chandra Mission. This event celebrates the International Day of Youth observed on the 12th of August every year. The 2015 All-India Essay Event Invitation, commemorating the tenth year of this partnership will be announced mid-year.

Whispers from The Brighter World

*My Beloved Master
Revered Babuji Maharaj*

*Whispers from
The Brighter World
A Fourth Revelation*



Wednesday, November 17, 1999 - 8:00 a.m.

Yes, our comments yesterday can be extended to racism. There is nothing sadder, in this period of time when men believe civilisation has reached its highest level, than seeing them tearing each other apart because of differences in races, and ethnic groups being sacrificed because they disturb.

"When will we see wisdom reigning on the Earth and men respecting each other whatever their colour of skin? It is time for an immense mixing to take place and for people from all the continents to mix and learn how to know each other. An enormous work remains to be done even if people's minds have opened up well compared to the last century.

"See in any other person your own brother; learn how to understand his culture, his habits which are not yours. All this should not create barriers. You should be able to see in him what you have in common, what can bring you closer and unite you. Each population group has its own treasures; it is up to you to discover them and to respect them.

"If you manage to admit all this, you will have taken a step towards peace and harmony. It is the frame of mind which must change; tolerance and respect for the other must be established to unite all people."

Babuji

Sahaj Marg Around the World



World Environment Day 2014



United Nations World Environment Day 2014 was commemorated on the date, 5th June, at the **SRCM Fremont California Ashram**. Awareness of the current environmental crisis was presented with solutions. Increasing climatic challenges (CO2 emission, deforestation, global warming and rising sea levels) and unrest and violence across the globe, send clear messages:

“The planet is telling us, as clearly as it can, that we are in crisis. All the signs indicate

that the centre of balance is disrupted both for the living beings and for Mother Earth.”

The proposed solutions were practical and inspiring: the 3 ‘R’s: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and how to change ourselves to be in tune with Nature – by realising the power of thought and meditating for human integration.

Highlights from the presentation included awareness of how each thought affects the

environment – thoughts of judgement, violence, and prejudice produce a negative impact on others as well as the environment. In contrast, thoughts of love originating from a balanced mind can lead to the right action and produce positive impacts on those around us as well as the environment.

The Universal Prayer was followed by light refreshments. Everyone experienced a renewed sense of responsibility towards the environment and an awareness of a connection between personal inner balance and the harmony and balance in nature.

About thirty people were in attendance for the event despite it being a weekday evening. The children in attendance made art contributions to the evening. †

Photos: SRCM 2014 UN World Environment Day, Fremont Ashram



Photos: SRCM 2014 UN World Environment Day, Fremont Ashram

Sahaj Marg Around the World

International Day of Peace 2014

The United Nations Day of Peace 21st September was celebrated around the world.

Europe

SRCM Toulouse Centre, France, participated for the second consecutive year at 'Toulouse in Time for Yoga' in celebration of UN Peace Day, 21st September.

An initiative of the Toulouse Indian Cultural Society, the event took place in the vast garden of the city centre under the patronage of the Indian Embassy with support from the municipality of Toulouse. The purpose of the event is to expose the many benefits of yoga to the French people and provide insight into its ancestral multi-



Photo: SRCM 2014, UN International Day of Peace, Victoria Centre

faceted depths through this year's theme, 'The Yoga Sutra of Pantajali'. SRCM Toulouse was given the opportunity to set up a stand during the event. The day was punctuated by public talks, debates and short live demonstrations.

SRCM members offered a meditation, after which everyone kept very quiet and a prayer for peace was offered. Public time was given to explain the association between SRCM and the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), and to give a reading of Babuji's 15th Universal Message¹ on how to establish world peace.

¹ Ram Chandra, *Complete Works of Ram Chandra*, (2009) pp. 430-433

North America

SRCM Victoria, British Columbia abhyasis joined with friends, families and local groups interested in the UN Day of Peace, and organised a Peace Parade. Exhibits in the parade included a beautiful handmade banner with the words, Sahaj Marg - Meditation for Human Integration. Another striking appearance was made by huge puppets present in all shapes and sizes, produced by one of the abhyasi organisers and a renowned puppeteer. The parade route followed a walk from the historical Craigdarroch Castle to the Governor's House where they were greeted by the Lt Governor.

It was a most unique way of celebrating the UN Peace Day with the public and they



Photo: SRCM Toulouse Centre, France Invitation

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International Day of Peace 2014



Photo: SRCM 2014, UN International Day of Peace, Victoria Centre



were “blessed with good weather and even us oldies made the walk easily with Master in our hearts and smiles on our faces.”

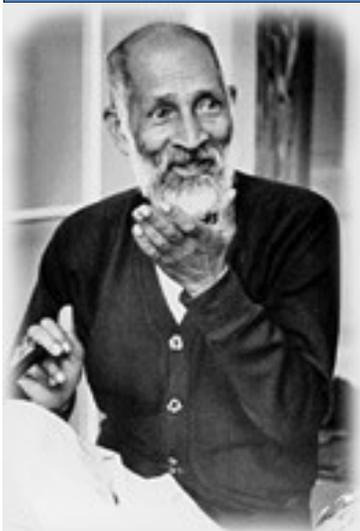
SRCM Noank, Connecticut gathered with over fifty friends, family and townspeople of all ages at the *Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center Peace Sanctuary* for their annual UN Peace Day walk, meditation and picnic. Historically the location was an important gathering place for a world-

wide peace organization, *The Universal Peace Union*. In the month of August, spanning the years 1868 - 1909, this sanctuary admitted tens of thousands of citizens from around the world for a four-day celebration of peace.

For many years, the local SRCM group has joined with the nature center, which currently maintains the Sanctuary, to commemorate the UN Day of Peace. Everyone became acquainted with

the history of this unique location during an easy hike around the property with the trails leading to the former peace temple and a session with an abhyasi explaining the concept of ‘Meditation for Human Integration’.

An exercise was offered for participants to consider the effects of an undisciplined mind, judgement, violence, and prejudice; and the idea that we create the world in which we live - that the condition of the environment depends on us. Furthermore, there exists an inner voice, which can speak to a quiet mind, prompting us to become the change that can change our world. All were then invited to join in the Universal Prayer. A profound inner quiet spread throughout the group and continued throughout the afternoon picnic. †



“ 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)

Sahaj Marg Around the World



International Day of Peace 2014



UK

Edinburgh, Scotland, Manchester, UK

SRCM Edinburgh, celebrated the International Day of Peace with a group of about twelve abhyasis. This was an especially pertinent day in Scotland since a referendum for National Independence had just taken place, and prompted a large majority to ruminate on what kind of society and world people wanted to live in.

After satsang, we read 'How to Establish World Peace' and reflected on Babuji's wonderful articulation of how the only sure foundation for peace in the external, material world starts with each individual: "... the problem is far from being related to the world in general; really it is the problem of the individual first and of society afterwards. As such it needs to be tackled in that order."¹

¹Ram Chandra, *Complete Works of Ram Chandra*, Vol. 3, (2009) pp 430-431

Photo: SRCM 2014, UN International Day of Peace, (Left) Edinburgh Centre, (Right) Manchester Centre

SRCM Manchester, UK observed the United Nations International Day of Peace on Sunday, 21st September with an open day for family and friends. Celebrations commenced with a reading by two children from a booklet they had prepared about the need for tolerance, understanding and love between peoples to bring about world peace.

A presentation, 'The Right of Peoples to Peace' was enjoyed, with the message that in order to achieve world peace, each individual should seek to become the change that they wish to see in the world and contribute to its development. World peace relies upon individual transformation - to achieve an inner ideal state and the outward evidence of their inner changes - inspiring love and piety in others. The means of achieving this is through spir-

itual development, a practice which centres on the heart, developing inner awareness through introspection. Developing love is the power behind human integration and peace. Our Master, Chariji, said and wrote: "Love achieves what fear never can and never will achieve. Love does not merely strengthen us but transforms us into vessels containing 'divine love', as it were."¹

The celebration was closed with a short meditation. We were requested to make the suggestion that "All people of the world are growing peace-loving and pious" during this meditation and during our universal prayer that evening.

¹ P Rajagopalachari, *My Master*, (2010), p 75 †

Sahaj Marg Around the World

Other Observances

North America

SRCM Ottawa celebrated the United Nations International Day of Tolerance when a whole-hearted commemoration arose through unexpected circumstances. A few weeks before the Day of Tolerance, a soldier in Ottawa was fatally shot by a man at Canada's National War Memorial. The shooter continued into the Parliament of Canada to cause further harm. He was finally stopped, but there was a ripple that moved through all in the city.

Within the circle of a few open-hearted colleagues and acquaintances, a small idea was given life: that people would come together in a spirit of unity, across traditions, to reflect and meditate to give energy to peace and tolerance. A very natural process of sincere discussion and planning ensued. The invitation that emerged included quotations for reflection from four spiritual traditions represented among those who gathered to observe the UN Day of Tolerance on 16 November, 2014.

"All people are the limbs of one body."

—Saadi Shirazi, 'Bani Adam' (part of the named poem inscribed above the portal of the UN General Assembly)

All present were open to the stillness, being together in the belief that tolerance can be found. After one brother played the cello, we sat for fifteen minutes in prayer-meditation. Then we all shared from the heart around the circle, about what tolerance could mean. The gathering stirred hearts, making the seams between us disappear. It drove home how we are all brothers and sisters – part of the same 'body'. It was a reminder in this time of change, to look towards our similarities. It is important for each one of us to be a part of the renaissance needed in this age.

"Unless there is spiritual renaissance, the world will know no peace."

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

"Living on hope is constructive; hope is positive and generates good vibrations. Didn't a wise man say that spirituality would

UN Day of Tolerance 2014

save the world? A time will come when harmony and peace will bring about a productive environment on Earth for the greater good. May all advance with this perspective and create in their minds blessed times to come."

—Babuji Maharaj, *Whispers from The Brighter World*, Friday, 26 September 2014 †

UN Universal Children's Day

India

SRCM BSK Ashram, Bangalore celebrated UN Universal Children's Day with an extended day programme. The ashram was abuzz with activity as children practised songs and skits throughout the morning.

A DVD on 'Parenthood' was played in which Master answers questions about bringing up children in Sahaj Marg. A short film showcased activities of the children's centre.



Photo: SRCM 2014 UN Universal Children's Day, BSK Ashram, Bangalore

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UN Universal Children's Day



Photos: SRCM 2014 UN Universal Children's Day, BSK Ashram, Bangalore

Adults played a childhood game supported by youth called 'Noughts & Crosses'. Some were reluctant to play; after being coaxed, even the elders joined the play and to their surprise liked it. Interactions between audience and players highlighted how child-like qualities of enthusiasm and spontaneity can be lost if we pay attention to what others might think of us or worry about making fools of ourselves.

Groups were formed and given

quotes from Master on children. Participants were hesitant, yet became inspired by a challenge to work together; reflect on the quote, discuss it, and present it creatively.

Together, they wrote poems, made collages and produced a skit. Many said that working as a team was something they were not in the habit of doing, and found the interaction with others enjoyable.

Children under six years performed an endearing action

song, six to nine-year age group sang a song and performed a skit on the Buddha, and the above nine-year group sang and performed a skit on 'The Richest Man in the World'. Their performance was confident and beautiful and their parents were excited and happy.

Before the day was over, children were treated to a special lunch and there was a feeling of happiness, sharing, and getting to know one another. We thank Master for touching our hearts in the atmosphere of a beautiful ashram.

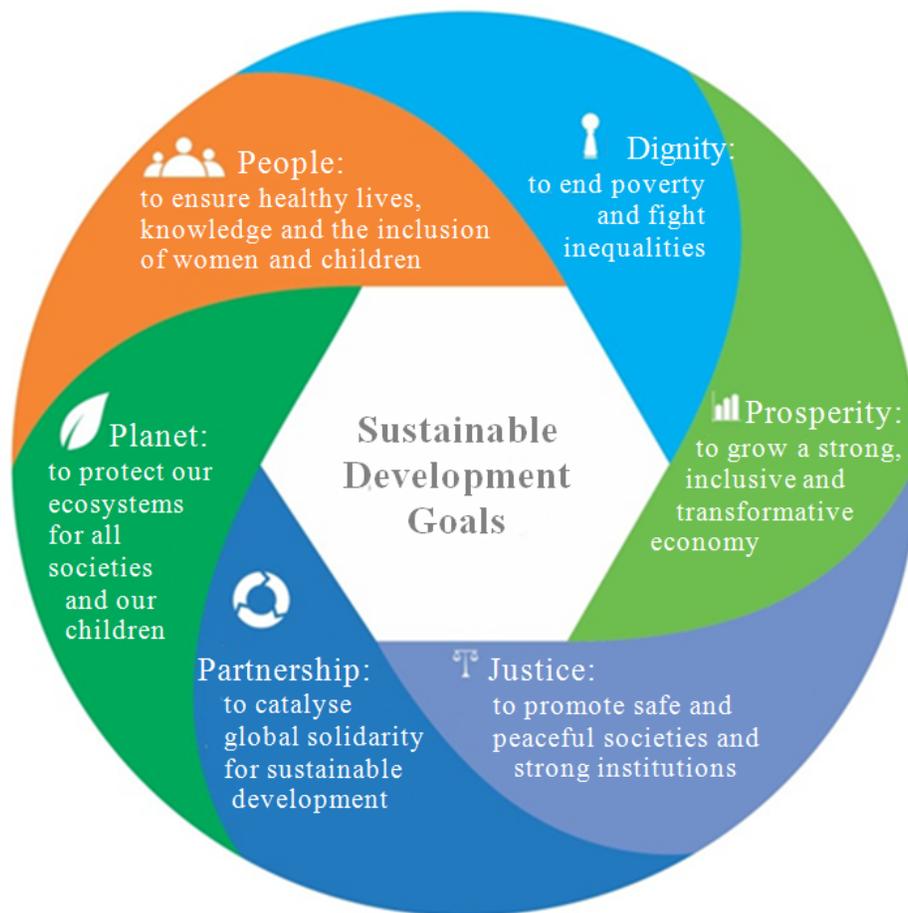


Photos: SRCM 2014 UN Universal Children's Day, BSK Ashram, Bangalore

UN INITIATIVE

The road to dignity by 2030:

Ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet



Six essential elements for delivering the sustainable development goals

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS, 2015

- 15* MAY, UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES
- 5* JUNE, WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 21* JUNE, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA
- 12* AUGUST, UN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
- 21* SEPTEMBER, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
- 20* NOVEMBER, UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY
- 5* DECEMBER, UNITED NATIONS' VOLUNTEER DAY

WEB ARCHIVES

Volume 7 Issue 2 SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION WWW.SAHAJMARG.ORG

Asside 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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UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES 2013
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Photo: SRCM 2013 International Youth Day Webinar, Chennai, India (27 August 2013)

International Youth Day Webinar

The UN International Youth Day Webinar held by the Shri Ram Chandra Mission was a worldwide experience with thousands of participants (4649 clicked the registration link and logged-in) from all time zones. The webinar, held on the 17th of August 2013 was conducted to commemorate the International Youth Day and the theme of the webinar was 'Universal Prayer - Love as Fuel for Change'.

The Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) was formally associated as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) on 12 December 2009, coincidentally when both the SRCM and the UN were marking their 60th anniversaries. The main objective of the charter with the United Nations was to promote the feelings of mutual love and universal brotherhood irrespective of any distinction of caste, colour, creed, religion, nationality and sex.

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Inside August 2013

ALL-INDIA ESSAY WRITING EVENT
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Photo: SRCM 2013 Mrs. Kusan Mishra-Kerpilalan, Director, UNICEF for India and Bhutan, Guest of Honor at the prize distribution for SRCM Zone held at Gurgaon, India on 24 February 2013

Address at 2012 All-India Essay Writing Event Prize Distribution

Kusan Mishra-Kerpilalan, Director, UNICEF for India and Bhutan, Delhi, India, February 2013, edited for publication

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here with you today. The United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan is proud to be associated with the Shri Ram Chandra Mission. The interest and enthusiasm shown by this essay contest is staggering! Consider the impact of 200,000 children from 10,000 institutions, with an age range from fifteen to twenty-five, discussing moral values with at least one member of their family, one member of the faculty and one friend. You can see what outreach and visibility this has brought.

Congratulations are in order to all the participants. You have all shown that there is no dearth of ideas and talent in this beautiful country. Young people can be change-makers and spur actions and initiatives that result in a value based world. "The Future We Want" is the United Nations' Global Initiative envisioning what we want our lives and communities to be like. In your essays you have written about your personal goals and aspirations, and the vision that drive you - your dreams for the future. We now need you to use your strengths and direct your energies towards building a better future!

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ESPAÑOL FRANCAIS

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Inside October 2012

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Photo: SRCM Swamishankar Ashram, Bangalore, India, Universal Children's Day 2011 silent prayer before passing

"... This is a huge exercise in simply understanding the grandiosity of the sanctity 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 find time 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, A address to the North American Seminar, Chennai, February 2012; edited for publication
Rishabh C. Kothari, (Brother Raju), is the SRCM Representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) under the non-governmental organization 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

FOR MORE ARCHIVES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY SHRI RAM CHANDRA MISSION ON VARIOUS UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS, VISIT THE "ONE WORLD" WEB PAGES:

<http://www.sahajmarg.org/resources/un-dpi>